



T H E

B A P I P

B U L L E T I N

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THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF PALESTINE-ISRAEL PHILATELISTS

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THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF PALESTINE-ISRAEL PHILATELISTS

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Dr Hochheiser has withdrawn his help to collect U.S. subscriptions in U.S. dollars.
We wish to thank him for his valuable services.

Membership Secretary: Mr John Swinnerton has retired from this post. BAPIP owes him a large debt of gratitude for his devoted work, of unfailing accuracy, over many years. Mr Norman Gladstone is now Membership Secretary. Please notify him of all changes of address.

THE BAPIP BULLETIN publishes research, reports, comments and enquiries on all aspects of Holy Land stamps and postal history.

Contributions are invited from members and non-members. Text can be translated or re-styled and illustrations can be re-touched.

Please ensure that your manuscript is legible. Script lines should be spaced to facilitate corrections. Plenty of clear illustrations are of the greatest importance and it would be of assistance if both light and dark photocopies are provided.

To save time and effort, please note that, unless requested upon submission, the items which are published will not be returned. Minor alterations of style, or to the sequence of paragraphs, will not be referred back to the author.

Honorary Editor: Walter Loeb1, 32 St. Ronans Crescent, Woodford Green, Essex, IG8 9DG

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

Monographs

			BAPIP Members
Palestine: The first Local Overprints	Dorfman & Posner	£2.50	£2.00
The Control Blocks of the Do'ar Ivri	Denfield	£2.50	£2.00
The Taxi Post	Danesch	£2.50	£2.00
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114 (double number)		£5.00	£4.00

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

We all mourn and regret the untimely death of our late president Michael Sacher. It was evident in the few months he held office as president of B.A.P.I.P. that a new era was dawning in the conduct of our society. It now falls upon me to continue the work he started and hopefully continue in a way he would approve of. As B.A.P.I.P. has always been recognised for its research work into Holyland philately, it is going to be difficult to maintain our standards in this respect but effort will not be lacking.

Over the past years B.A.P.I.P., has had its troubles and if I am not mistaken will continue to meet with setbacks. With goodwill and the assistance of the membership to support me and the other officers of the society, I look forward to a long stable period. During this time I hope we may get on with the many subjects for study and research which may be brought to fruition and will finally keep our Bulletin well stocked with interesting and informative articles. In addition, I am looking forward to other activities which may take place by the members for the members. In this respect it would be advantageous for members in certain areas where a small group could be formed to hold meetings of their own. I am sure we could arrange a speaker or team from the London area to visit such groups from time to time. We are always pleased to welcome visiting members and guests to our London meeting when they can find the opportunity to visit us.

Although it is with some trepidation that I take up this presidency, at least it is the second time that I have filled this post. In view of this my initiation has already taken place.

Ralph Norgate

MICHAEL M. SACHER F.R.P.S.L.

Most of our members will have heard by now of the death of our friend and fellow-member, and for an all-too-short time, President of BAPIP. His untimely death has left a gap that will be difficult to fill.

Those of us who had the privilege of knowing Michael for many years were aware that he was a man of many parts, involved in communal and charitable affairs to an extent that one would have thought precluded having any time left for other activities, let alone hobbies. In this respect he carried on the fine traditions of his family. Despite the many calls on his time he somehow managed to devote what was left to the study of Holy Land Postal History in which field his extensive knowledge assured him of the high respect and regard among leading collectors.

In common with so many collectors, inside and outside BAPIP, I was able to consult Michael on knotty postal history problems, particularly relating to military mail, that cropped up. I always had the benefit of his years of research, generously shared. His numerous articles on the subject testify to his expertise which was always at the disposal of his friends. He will be sorely missed by all of us.

Much has already been written about Michael's role in support of Zionism and Israel and the many good causes he espoused, sectarian and non-sectarian. His position in Marks and Spencers, the family firm, would for most people have been a 'full-time' job but he had the capacity to apply his dynamism to every project in which he was involved. His untimely death at the age of 68 came as we were preparing for the combined display by BAPIP at the British Philatelic Exhibition in which he was to participate. Although Michael was not present, through the courtesy of his widow Mrs. Janice Sacher we were able to display Michael's contribution. Mrs Sacher also agreed to open the exhibition in place of our late friend.

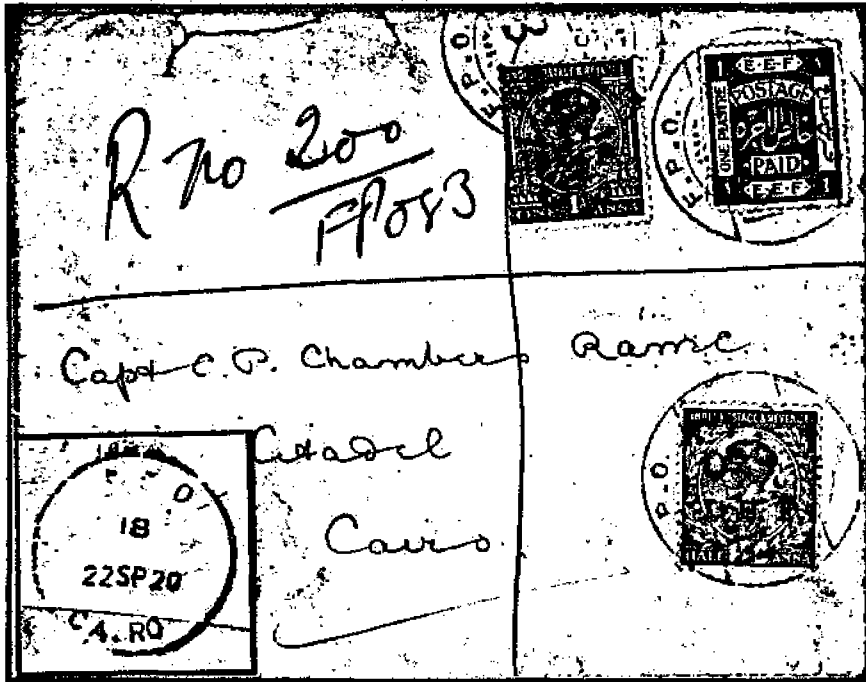
It has been said that when we depart something of what we have achieved in life survives us. Surely this must apply in large measure to Michael Sacher.

B.A.R.

E.E.F. - I.E.F.

The envelope illustrated below turned up in an original find of Palestine, Egypt and Hejaz. The letter was posted at the town of Lydda (Hebrew "Lod", Arabic "Lidd") on 20th September 1918 in the Indian Field Post Office 83, which had been opened a few weeks earlier. Registered envelopes are known bearing the embossed British Stamp with I.E.F. stamp used to pay the registration fee in combination with I.E.F.

The letter arrived at the Indian Expeditionary Force Field Post Office 18 on 22nd September.



The use of the British registered envelopes and this envelope suggest that the Indian Expeditionary Force had limited facilities for the pre-payment of registered mail, but I.E.F. registered mail is not uncommon.

In 1917 and early 1918 the E.E.F. Army Post Office SZ8 moved from Ramleh to Lydda before finishing up in Beirut. Travelling Post Office datestamps are known lettered LAD (Lydda-Damascus and DAL for the return journey) and LAK (Lydda Kantara, return KAL). At this time Lydda was an important rail junction.

The 'Holy Land' of three great faiths - Christian, Jewish and Moslem, was under Ottoman domination from the fifteenth century until the Turks were driven out by the advance of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force under Sir Edmund Allenby which commenced on the 9th January 1917. The army used either British E.E.F. or I.E.F. stamps for registration and parcels but ordinary soldiers' letters were carried free. In February 1918 the first adhesive stamps for use by the civil population were issued. The military occupation lasted until the 1st July 1920.

The above and a number of scarce mint Palestine with a few covers is part of a find to be offered in Zurich next May by



CHRISTIE'S
ROBSON LOWE



OVERLAND MAIL CACHETS AND LABELS

THE MICHAEL M. SACHER RECORDS

Mr Norman J Collins has contributed the original list and illustrations compiled by our late President. Mr Sacher had intended that his data be amalgamated with those of the late Dr Hirst (which appear to be missing - Ed) and Mr Collins' information.

Mr Collins has suggested that the records be published unaltered as a tribute to Mr. Sacher. Some faults caused by photocopying of the illustrations have been retouched.

CHECK LIST OF OVERLAND MAIL BAGHDAD - HAIFA.

IRAQ

(a) m/s inscription 'Overland Mail Baghdad - Haifa' ED 22 MR 23 - LD 19 SE 29

(b) Handstamps

	<u>Inscriptions</u>	<u>Size/ Length</u>	<u>Colour</u>	<u>ED</u>	<u>LD</u>
1	Overland	34mm	black	20 MY 24	13 ND 24
2	By Overland Mail (parallel lines)	11 x 55	?	10 FE 27	
3	Overland Mail/Baghdad-Haifa	17 x 58	purple	3 MR 25	5 ND 25
4	" " " "	12 x 48	?	25	
5	By Overland Mail/Baghdad-Haifa	14 x 78	purple	20 MY 25?	
6	" " " " " "	15 x 58	purple	26 OC 30	

(c) Labels

	<u>Inscriptions</u>	<u>Colour</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Perf.</u>	<u>ED</u>	<u>LD</u>
1	Overland Mail (bilingual)	red/wh	76 x 11	11 1/2	20 JU 22	17 AP 29
2	" " " "	red/wh	76 x 11	Imperf	29 MR 22	8 JU 27
3	" " " "	red/wh	64 x 13	11 1/2	21 JY 25	
4	Overland Mail/Baghdad-Haifa	red/wh	99 x 11	Imperf	AP 31	

(d) Imprinted Envelopes

	<u>Inscriptions</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Colour</u>	<u>ED</u>	<u>LD</u>
1	Overland/Baghdad-Haifa	53 x 19	red	28 JA 26	
2	Overland Mail/Baghdad-Haifa	48 x 16	red	JU 26	
3	" " " "	48 x 16	red	FE 27	
4	" " " "	49 x 14	red	21 SE 26	
5	" " " "	55 x 16	red	6 FE 34	1 AP 34
6	" " " "	60 x 18	red	11 FE 29	14 AP 31
7	Overland Mail	59 x 17	red	3 FE 33	23 AP 37
8	Overland	52 x 5	red	27 OC 31	
9	Overland Mail	51 x 4	red	19 AP 33	3 MY 33
10	" "	37 x 4	red	5 JU 34	
11	" "	49 x 5	red	7 JY 42	

SYRIA/LEBANON

(e) Imprinted Envelopes

	<u>Size</u>	<u>Colour</u>	<u>ED</u>	<u>LD</u>
1	40 mm	red/bk	26	24 DE 39

IRAN

(f) Handstamps

		<u>Size</u>	<u>Colour</u>	<u>ED</u>	<u>LD</u>
1	Baghdad-Haifa/par voie de terre	61 x 27	bk	23 JA 24	21 AU 28
2	Overland Mail/Baghdad-Haifa	40 x 9	purple	23 SE 24	2 JU 27
3	Overland Mail, Baghdad-Haifa	88 x 3		9 AP 26	15 FE 28

(g) Imprinted Envelopes

1	Overland Mail/Baghdad-Haifa	83 x 5	?	?
2	Overland/Baghdad-Haifa	74 x 18	?	?

EGYPT

(h) Labels

		<u>Size</u>	<u>Colour</u>	<u>ED</u>	<u>LD</u>
1	Motor Mail (bilingual)	31 x 23	?	17 FE 24	14 AP 26

IRAQ

Handstamps

OVERLAND

BY OVERLAND MAIL

OVERLAND MAIL
BAGHDAD-HAIFA

b1

b2

b3

OVERLAND MAIL
BAGHDAD-HAIFA

BY OVERLAND MAIL
BAGHDAD-HAIFA.

b4

b5

BY OVERLAND MAIL
BAGHDAD-HAIFA

b6

Labels



c1

c2

OVERLAND MAIL البريد العابر

c3

OVERLAND MAIL. BAGHDAD-HAIFA.

c4

Imprinted Envelopes

OVERLAND
BAGHDAD-HAIFA.

d1

OVERLAND MAIL.
BAGHDAD - HAIFA.

d2

OVERLAND MAIL
BAGHDAD-HAIFA.

d3

OVERLAND.
BAGHDAD-HAIFA

d4

OVERLAND MAIL
Baghdad — Haifa.

d5

OVERLAND MAIL
Baghdad — Haifa.

d6

OVERLAND MAIL

d7

OVERLAND

d8

OVERLAND MAIL

d9

Overland Mail

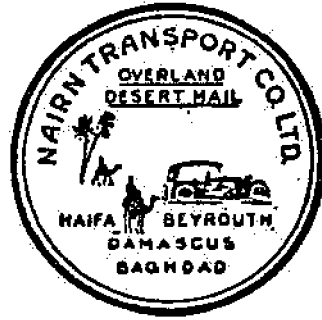
d10

OVERLAND MAIL.

d11

SYRIA/LEBANON

Imprinted Envelope



e1

IRAN

Handstamps



f1



f2

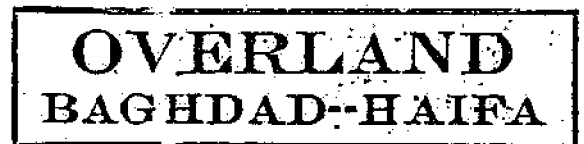
OVERLAND MAIL, BAGDAD - HAIFA.

f3

Imprinted Envelopes

OVERLAND MAIL
BAGHDAD-HAIFA.

g1



g2

EGYPT

Labels



h1

DIARY OF THE E.E.F. ISSUES 1918-1920

by A London Research Group

- 9 Jan 1917 The Egyptian Expeditionary Force crossed the Egyptian-Palestine frontier at Rafa.
- 1 Dec 1917 Brigadier-General N T Borton, of General Headquarters, E.E.F. wrote to the Deputy Adjutant General at 1st Echelon with a copy to the Director of Army Postal Service, opening the subject of postage for civilians "when Jerusalem was captured". He suggested that the D.A.P.S. should open an office for civilians to handle ordinary and registered mail only, their letters to be franked with British stamps overprinted E.E.F. or by the use of a 'Paid' handstamp and to be forwarded to the Intelligence Branch for censorship.
- 1 Dec 1917 Colonel Peter Warren, C.M.G. O.B.E., the D.A.P.S., replied on the same day. He could arrange for a post office to be established for civilians; parcels should not at first be accepted but Postal Order business might be transacted although not Money Order business. He expressed a preference for overprinted stamps rather than a 'Paid' handstamp which would not be accepted internationally.
- 4 Dec 1917 Lieutenant Colonel W H Deeds, the Political Officer, having been consulted replied that the use of British stamps was politically undesirable. He proposed that "persons wishing to post letters should pay a piastre over the counter; that the Director A.P.S. should affix on the letter a small paper label or ticket marked 'E.E.F. Postage Paid' and the letter be then despatched to destination". He further suggested, with regard to censorship, that letters be despatched to G.S. "g", G.H.Q. 1st Echelon at Bir Salem.
- 5 Dec 1917 The D.A.P.S. cabled the D.A.P.S. at the War Office proposing to issue special postage stamps, value 1 piastre with inscription "E.E.F. Postage Paid".
- 6 Dec 1917 The D.A.P.S. War Office cabled his agreement stating that the colour must be dark blue and that the value must be inscribed in Arabic figures.
- 8 Dec 1917 Captain H A Mann, for the Director, A.P.S. E.E.F. wrote "From a postal point of view there is no objection to the proposal of the Political Officer but the labels must be of dark blue colour and inscribed with their value in Arabic". He then referred to obligations to the Universal Postal Union and stated that 379 specimens should be sent to H.M. Postmaster General, London. He then stated his intention of going ahead with the ordering of the initial supplies of the "labels" and asked if the proposal had been approved and his further action sanctioned.
- 9 Dec 1917 Approval was given for the printing of the first postage stamp of Palestine under the British Occupation. The Deputy Director, Major D A C Rowth would be responsible for the operation of postal services in Palestine.
- Dec 1917 The Typographical Department of the Egyptian Survey Office at Giza was asked to undertake the production of the postage stamps which would be one of the three designs submitted by Lieutenant G H Rowntree. The design was described at the time as being "severely utilitarian in character and unpretentious in the extreme". The initials E.E.F. were enclosed in hexagonal frames and the value was expressed in English and Arabic characters.

20 Dec 1917 Four ferro-prussiate proofs on cardboard were submitted to the D.A.D.A.P.S. 2 Echelon for approval.

28 Dec 1917 The D.A.P.S. E.E.F. cabled the War Office that the design had been approved and that it was hoped to send specimens shortly for distribution to the U.P.U.

15 Jan 1918 The first printing of 175 sheets (some publications say 200 sheets) each of 120 stamps in indigo was made by photo-lithography by the Department of Survey, Giza, on ungummed paper watermarked Royal Cypher. Sheets were rouletted 20 and the Control was A.18.

16 Jan 1918 Specimens of the first printing were sent to London.

Jan 1918 Further printings were made in deep blue and blue, amounting to 1,748 sheets with Control A.18 in all.

29 Jan 1918 Public Notice No. 38 was published introducing the pre-payment of postage to "other countries".

9 Feb 1918 The D.A.P.S. E.E.F. envisaged the requirement for eleven denominations and requested a set to be prepared by Somerset House.

10 Feb 1918 The first printings were issued to satisfy the foreign letter rate for the civilian inhabitants. Until this date they had enjoyed free postage to "other countries". At first, as a precautionary measure against the purchase of stamps for other than immediate use, the stamps were not placed on public sale in the ordinary way but were affixed by the postal officials to civilian letters upon which postage had been paid in cash.

12 Feb 1918 The one piastre was reprinted in cobalt and surcharged "5 milliemes". 419 sheets were prepared with Control B 18A.

16 Feb 1918 The one piastre surcharged "5 milliemes" issued to pay the internal rate for civilian inhabitants. Until this date they had enjoyed free internal postage.

5 Mar 1918 A new printing of the one piastre in bright, pale or deep shades of ultramarine was made on gummed paper supplied by Somerset House and the Control was C. 18. Further printings were made in April, making 2,824 sheets in all.

5 Mar 1918 A similar new printing of the one piastre surcharged "5 milliemes" was issued and consisted of 463 sheets with Control C 18B.

23 Apr 1918 The D.A.P.S. London advised that the typographed series was "in course of preparation".

13 May 1918 A further printing of the one piastre surcharged 5 milliemes was issued and consisted of 451 sheets with control D 18C.

14 June 1918 The first consignment of the typographed series was despatched from London.

16 July 1918 The first values of the typographed series, printed by Somerset House on paper watermarked Royal Cypher and perforated 15x14 were issued. They were the 1, 2 and 4 milliemes and the 2 and 5 piastres.

25 Sep 1918 The 5 milliemes typographed was issued.

9 Nov 1918 The 1 piastre typographed was issued.

- 17 Dec 1918 The 3 milliemes, 9 and 10 piastres typographed were issued.
- 27 Dec 1918 The 20 piastres typographed was issued.
- 2 Oct 1919 Colonel Warren raised the question of new stamps for Palestine with Brigadier-General Wavell at G.H.Q. He suggested that the existing stamps could be overprinted "Palestine" for those territories which would form part of the Mandate, if the Mandate was to be entrusted to Great Britain, until a decision on the definitive stamp could be reached. He appreciated that there could be no decision until the Mandate situation was known.
- 25 Apr 1920 The Mandatory Status of Palestine was fixed at the San Remo Conference in favour of Great Britain.
- 1 July 1920 A Civil Administration replaced the Military Administration of Occupied Enemy Territory (South) with Sir Herbert Samuel as High Commissioner.
- 14 July 1920 Sir Herbert Samuel wrote to Major W Hudson, who had been appointed Postmaster General "The E.E.F. stamps now in use should be continued, endorsed 'Palestine' in Arabic and Hebrew in that order, the Hebrew word being followed by the initials 'X' in Hebrew the abbreviation for 'Eretz Israel', the Land of Israel.
- 1 Sep 1920 The Typograph series overprinted "Palestine" began to be issued, the overprint having been applied at the Greek Orthodox Press, Jerusalem.
- 1 May 1922 The un-overprinted issue was demonetised.
- 29 Sep 1923 The British Mandate of Palestine to the United Nations was established by the ratification of the San Remo Conference.

Acknowledgements to J A Firebrace, Z Galibov and R Norgate.

NOTES ON THE CONTROL BLOCKS OF THE PALESTINE BLUES

By Joseph Aron

The Stanley Gibbons Catalogue Part I listing the Palestine Blues (Nos. 1 - 4) is somewhat unique in that it includes what appears to be the only remaining Part I listing of Control Blocks. The list of Control Blocks of the stamps of Great Britain has long been removed to the specialised catalogue. Control Blocks are of course also listed by Bale.

Five different control numbers, coded to refer to specific printings, were used. Palestine SG 1 bears the control number A18. It exists in all three shades - indigo, deep blue and blue. The 5m overprinted Cobalt Blue SG 2 bears the control number B18 A. In all cases 18 refers to the year of printing - 1918. The B (in the colour of the basic stamp) represents the fact that it was the second printing of the basic stamp, while the A (in black, printed as part of the overprinting process from the overprint plate) indicates that it was the first overprint. The 1m ultramarine, SG 3, was the third printing of the same design and accordingly bears the control number C18. A portion of this printing was used to create SG 4, and those sheets bear control No. C18 B (B referring to the second overprint). Sheets of a further printing of the basic stamp used entirely for overprinting, bear control number D 18 C (i.e. the fourth printing of the basic stamp and third overprint).

Stamps from these two printings, issued on 4 March and 13 May respectively, are individually indistinguishable, except for used copies which bear an early date. This fact gives particular significance to control blocks of No. 4 - which provide a foolproof way of distinguishing the two printings.

According to Dr Hoexter and to Bale, the number of sheets of each basic stamp was as follows:-

No. 1 1748 (including all three shades, although there is a view that the 200 sheets of indigo which were the first printing were additional to this number).
 No. 2 419
 No. 3 2824
 No. 4 463 First printing.
 451 Second printing.

There is one control block per sheet; thus the above listed numbers also refer to the maximum number of control blocks ever available.

Reference to either Gibbons or Bale quickly shows that prices do not directly reflect the numbers printed. The price of the D18 C control block of No. 4 is particularly low in the context of numbers issued. Whilst on the basis of numbers issued it would appear that blocks of No. 1 are relatively highly priced compared to No. 2 and to both printings of No. 4. It should be noted that in Gibbons 1985, for example, the price for blocks of No. 1 is not substantially higher than the price of four mint stamps; and that despite the numbers issued, mint copies of No. 1 are priced higher than No. 2 probably because they were initially not sold mint over the counter. The restriction on sales other than for immediate attachment to letters would also account for the loss of many control blocks.

CATALOGUE VALUE in £ STERLING converted at relevant rate												
S.G. NO.	CONTROL No.	SHEETS PRINTED	SG 1964	B 1973	B 1974	B 1975	SG 1977	B 1978	B 1980	SG 1981	B 1984	SG 1985
1a indigo	A 18	200	35	210	230	310	450	857	1,250	1,600	965	1,200
1b d.blue	A 18	-or- 1748	30	175	200	250	375	900	1,225	1,500	930	1,100
1c blue	A 18		35	215	235	300	525	970	1,225	1,600	930	1,200
2	B 18A	419	40	200	225	290	525	1,145	1,200	2,000	1,065	1,500
3	C 18	2824	3	7	8	11	16	43	57	90	50	75
4 (March)	C 18B	463	35	210	240	265	525	570	875	900	765	750
4 (May)	D 18C	451	12	45	52	60	125	130	192	200	165	175

Utilising the out-of-date catalogues in my library, I traced the progress of prices for each control block (see Table). The following interesting aspects emerged.

1. Although the mint price of SG 1 is higher than that of SG 2 (see above), Gibbons have generally placed the value of control blocks of No. 2 above that of No. 1. Bale has a reverse situation up to 1980, but the 1984 catalogue also fell in line with the Gibbons practice.
2. In 1985 a mint copy of No. 1 was 60 times the price of No. 4, but the value of the C18 B control block of No. 4 was shown as five eighths that of the A18 block. This was despite the fact that there are potentially more than four times as many A18 blocks as there are C18 B blocks. Even if the different shades of No. 1 are treated as separate items, there should theoretically be more A18 blocks at least in the Deep Blue and Blue shades. Once again, one is drawn to the conclusion that the initial policy of restriction on mint and bulk sales not directly intended for use on correspondence, has influenced the block survival rate.
3. The changing fortune over time of the scarce C18 B block is especially interesting. In 1964 Gibbons priced the A18 control block at the same level as the C18 B. In 1977 they were still equally priced although the 1978 Bale catalogue was to show the price of the A18 at 170% that of C18 A. By 1985 Gibbons showed a similar differential in favour of the A18 although Bale had narrowed the gap to a little over 20% in 1984.

4. Separate transfers aside, it should be noted that the existence of three different listed shades of No. 1 means that the number of control blocks potentially available must be divided into the three separate listed items. There appears to be some doubt as to whether the 200 sheets of No. 1 in the Indigo shade which were printed first, are included in the number often cited of 1748 sheets of No. 1 or whether 1748 sheets were printed in blue and deep blue with an additional 200 in indigo. Reference has already been made to the fact that separate shade listing means that the potential 1748 control blocks of No. 1 should be seen as representing the maximum availability of three separate items listed as 1a, 1b or 1c. However, a further issue arises with regard to the comparative valuations. If there were only 200 indigo sheets, the A18 indigo block is potentially the scarcest of the "Blues" control blocks. Nevertheless, Gibbons has almost always priced it at the same level as the blue shade, while Bale generally priced it at only a marginally higher value. Is it possible that the indigo (extra?) batch was more freely available to military personnel seeking souvenirs and to the collecting fraternity generally?

In conclusion it is worth remembering the rule of thumb that while numbers issued are significant, they are not the sole determinant of scarcity. Sales policy, usage patterns and survival factors, in conjunction with the impact of specialist demand for multiple copies where minor varieties (shades/transfers) exist of a specialist item, all combine to influence availability and price.

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

Forged and Bogus Postmarks of the Foreign P.O.s

Would readers who have in their collections copies of forged or bogus postmarks of any of the following Foreign POs: AUSTRIAN, FRENCH, GERMAN, ITALIAN and RUSSIAN, also of forged cachets of those POs, plus any forged marks of the cachets used by the JEWISH COLONIES MESSENGER SERVICES, please let me have good photocopies or photographs (in duplicate if possible).

Genuine Postmarks

If any member has copies of the French PO Beyrouth circa 1849, or of the French PO Alexandria circa 1842 I would appreciate copies of these also. Unfortunately Anton records them but does not illustrate them due to the fact that he did not have illustrateable copies. I would also appreciate good illustrations of any covers of importance from any PO, which would help enhance the pages of this work. All contributions will be acknowledged when published.

Contributions of illustrations should be sent to: Norman J Collins 21, Torrington Drive, Thingwall, Heswall, Merseyside L61 7UZ, England.

Translator Wanted: Several items in Judaeo-Arabic have defeated your editor. Can any member read this Rashi-like script? Please contact the Editor.

Old Israel Catalogues Wanted: Liverpool Jewish Programming and Resources Centre provides information to people about Israel and Judaism. Please send Your surplus material to: Sara Leviten, Harold House, Dunbabin Road, Liverpool L15 6XL.

MEMBERS' WANTS

Israel Army Postal Services 1948/1949: Baruch J Hurwich, M.D., of 4 Marcus St. 92-233 Jerusalem, Israel, is building up a collection and would like to obtain such material and to hear from members who share his interest in this topic.

This Israel Cachet, appropriately used on cover, is wanted by Walter Loebl, 32 St. Ronans Crescent, Woodford Green, Essex IG8 9DG, England.

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A PALESTINE MYSTERY - EDITORIAL NOTE

By R Norgate

The following notes are intended to assist the less expert to acquire more understanding of the overprinted postage stamps of Palestine, which were discussed by Mr Gladstone. In his article in Bulletin 114, page 141, the eight millimetre and first ten millimetre overprints are referred to. This measurement relates to the length of the Arabic inscription in the overprint. Currently, the 8 mm. is known as Jerusalem 1. There were two settings of the overprinting plate which are known, of course, as setting 1 and setting 2. The first 10 mm. overprint is designated Jerusalem 2. Both of these overprints were produced and used in the printing press of the Greek Orthodox Convent in Jerusalem. As mentioned in the article, the stamps themselves were printed by the typographic process at Somerset House in sheets of 240. Therefore the Greek Convent prepared a printing plate consisting of 240 units.

The overprinting plate for setting 1 of Jerusalem 1 was produced as follows. Two rows of type were assembled, each for overprinting a horizontal row of 12 stamps. Casts were then taken from these 2 rows to make the overprinting plate in two panes of ten rows each. The type face used in this process was not new but well worn. Small imperfections make it possible to identify the 24 original type units making up the two original rows. From the study of larger blocks of stamps it has been possible to establish that the replicas of the two original rows of 12 each were not assembled alternately to make up the overprinting plate. In the upper pane, one row appears 6 times and the other row 4 times; the reverse applies to the lower pane of 10 rows.

Constant varieties were also present on many of the Somerset House typographed stamps themselves. One can combine the identification of these varieties with the individual types of the 24 original overprinting units of this setting in order to identify, and plate accurately, many individual stamps to their original sheet positions. The numbering of individual stamps in the sheet is from left to right (1 to 12 in the first row) and from the top of the sheet downwards. Therefore stamps can be identified by an individual number, between 1 and 240, in articles, and catalogues etc.

The setting 1 overprint was soon discarded and a new overprinting plate was prepared and brought into use. This setting 2 started with a single row of 12 overprinting units of type. Sufficient casts were made from this row to make up the overprinting plate. The type used for this setting was in better condition than that used for setting 1 and its appearance is more regular. Nevertheless, there is sufficient variation for the 12 overprint types in the row to be recognised and identified.

The overprinting plate was taken to pieces on four occasions for cleaning. Each time the plate was reassembled, the rows were put back in a different order. As a result, varieties of the overprint specific to a certain row of the original overprinting plate may not correspond with an identifiable variety of the typographed stamp. Again, the meticulous study of larger blocks of stamps has enabled the sequence of rows to be worked out for each arrangement of the overprinting plate. The four different arrangements are known as Alpha, Beta, Gamma and Delta.

In the case of the Jerusalem 2 overprint the method of preparing the overprinting plate was quite different. Not only was there a change in the length of the Arabic inscription but also 240 separate units of type were assembled, presumably to avoid the need for a casting process. Needless to say, variations in the overprint type are present but because there is no regular repeated pattern of rows it is more difficult to study and locate positions within the overprinting plate or the original stamp sheet. Therefore, after mastering the Jerusalem 1 settings, one is still confronted with the fascination and challenge of Jerusalem 2.

It should be mentioned that other overprints followed but these do not concern us for the purposes of comments on the above article. For those requiring more detailed information and assistance with the Jerusalem 1 overprinted stamps, you are recommended to read the BAPIP Monograph on the subject by Dorfman and Posner which is still available from the Association as advertised elsewhere in this Bulletin.

A PALESTINE MYSTERY - ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

By David Dorfman

Both articles by Norman Gladstone in Bulletin Nos. 113 and 114 have intrigued me, but lack of time due to other commitments have not enabled me to offer any comments until now. As a co-author of the Monograph "Palestine: The First Local Overprints", you can appreciate my interest in this matter.

Few, if any of our present readers will remember Paul P Lindenburg. This gentleman of the old school has long since passed on to his reward. In 1952 he published and sold at \$0.75 a copy, a SPECIALIZED CATALOGUE OF THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF PALESTINE. Two pages were devoted to advertisements of offerings, other than Palestine stamps. This catalogue listed the total number of stamps issued for the First Local Overprints, and when converting this number back to sheets, the numbers correspond exactly as recorded in the Anonymous Press Cuttings column (see page 143, Bulletin No. 114).

I didn't believe those numbers then, and I don't believe them today.

As a follow-up to the monograph that I co-authored, I published an article entitled "The ABC's of Differentiating Between the First & Second Settings of the First Local Overprints of Palestine". This appeared in The Israel Philatelist, Vol. XIV Nos. 4 & 5, (December 1962 and January 1963. The end of this article contained the following table:

RELATIVE RATIO VALUES OF THE STAMPS OF THE FIRST LOCAL OVERPRINTS

	Mint		Used	
	1st Setting	2nd Setting	1st Setting	2nd Setting
1 millieme	1	3	1	5
2 milliemes	1	4	1	3
3 milliemes	15	1	25	1
4 milliemes	1	2	1	2
5 milliemes	1	5	1	3
2 piastres	1	3	1	8
5 piastres	1	3	1	15
9 piastres	1	5	1	25
10 piastres	1	6	1	50
20 piastres	1	50	1	100

This table only applied to those stamps perforated 15x14. As one can see, with the exception of the 3 milliemes value, the 1st Setting is commoner.

Going a step further, I decided to analyse the figures published from a Collector's Album Page, by comparing the numbers given for the piastre(s) values with other known published figures. To begin with, the 1 piastre SG 3, appeared on March 5, 1918, and was issued in a quantity of 338,880 stamps. This quantity sufficed for a period of slightly more than a year. During this entire period, the 1 piastre was the foreign first class letter rate. In light of the above data, the figure of 3,442 sheets or 826,080 stamps, as the number printed for the 1 piastre SG 21 is reasonable, as these lasted about 6-8 months. Based on the foregoing analysis, I accept the figures from the Album Page as accurate, but only up to the 2 piastre value. I do not accept the figures given for the 5 to 20 piastres values. These are utterly wild! We can only guess, and I would estimate a minimum of 200 sheets of each of these values, and a top figure not exceeding 400 sheets.

It is amazing that 25 years ago, before having access to the above data, I was able to ascertain the rarity of the 3 milliemes 1st Setting, of the First Local Overprint. I believe that the total printing of this stamp consisted of 50 sheets. When one considers that this includes the rough perforation stamps as well as normal, each stamp is somewhat underpriced.

One should also keep in mind that at the time these stamps were issued there were twenty-two operational postal entities, and others appeared before the year was out. It is no wonder then that the 3 milliemes quickly vanished, and the 5 milliemes was sold out at the Jerusalem P.O. in the afternoon of September 23rd.

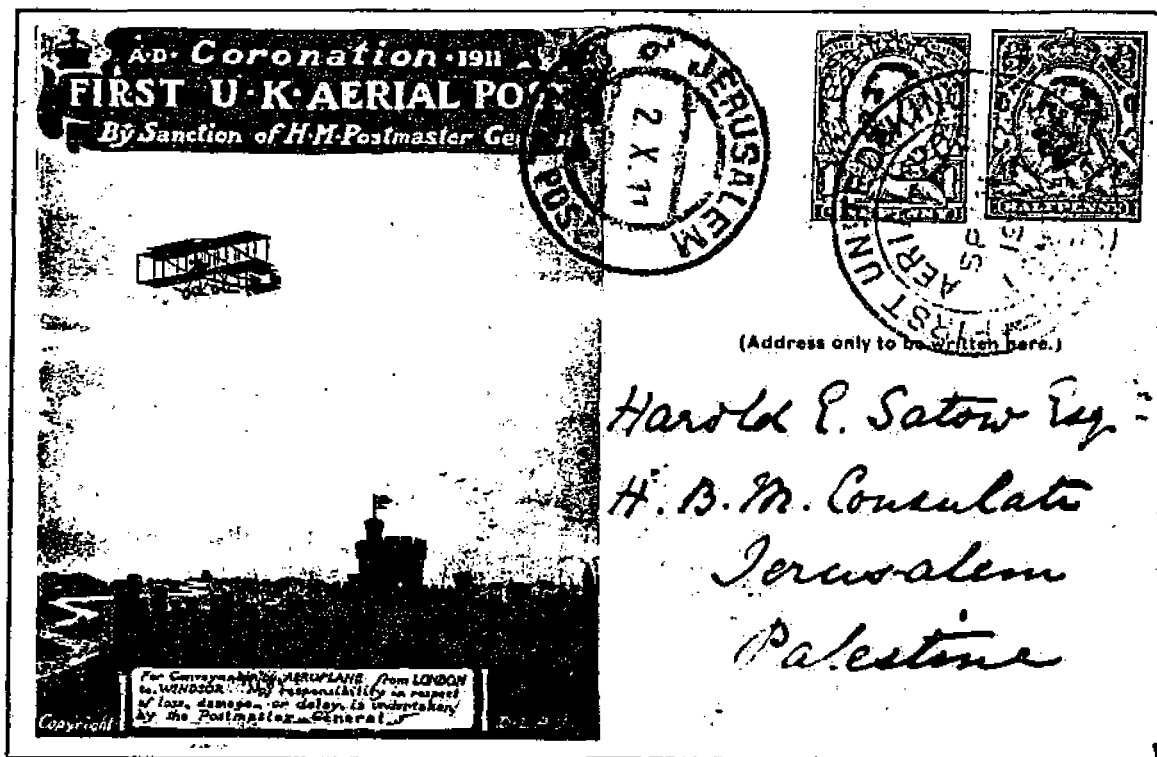
Finally, it is important to mention that ALL values of the set are known with First Day cancellations of 1 SP 20. Most of those that are known exist with the double-circle JERUSALEM with O.E.T.A.-E.E.F. excised (Glassman & Sacher B21). These were all cancelled to order by the department that filled dealers' orders for used stamps. Yes, there were stamp dealers then. Those that went through the mail on the first day, were cancelled with skeleton postmarking devices. These are quite scarce, and I have only seen very few such covers, all from Jerusalem. Other towns should exist, but are not yet recorded.

AN AERIAL MAIL 'GEM' TO PALESTINE 1911

By Norman J Collins

My friend Stanley Jackson of Stanley Gibbons Rare Stamps department recently sent me a photocopy of a most interesting postcard of the First U.K. Aerial Post of 1911. The flights were from London to Windsor and vice versa. The card illustrated below and shown by courtesy of Stanley Gibbons Ltd, is one of only two items known from these special flights addressed to Palestine.

The card was written by 'Barkers' of Kensington (London) a relative of the addressee, who was at the British Consulate in Jerusalem. The card is franked by a 1/2 penny and 1 penny stamps of the George V issue and is cancelled by the special postmark dated 11th September 1911. On the front there is also the Austrian P.O. arrival mark dated 2nd October 1911.

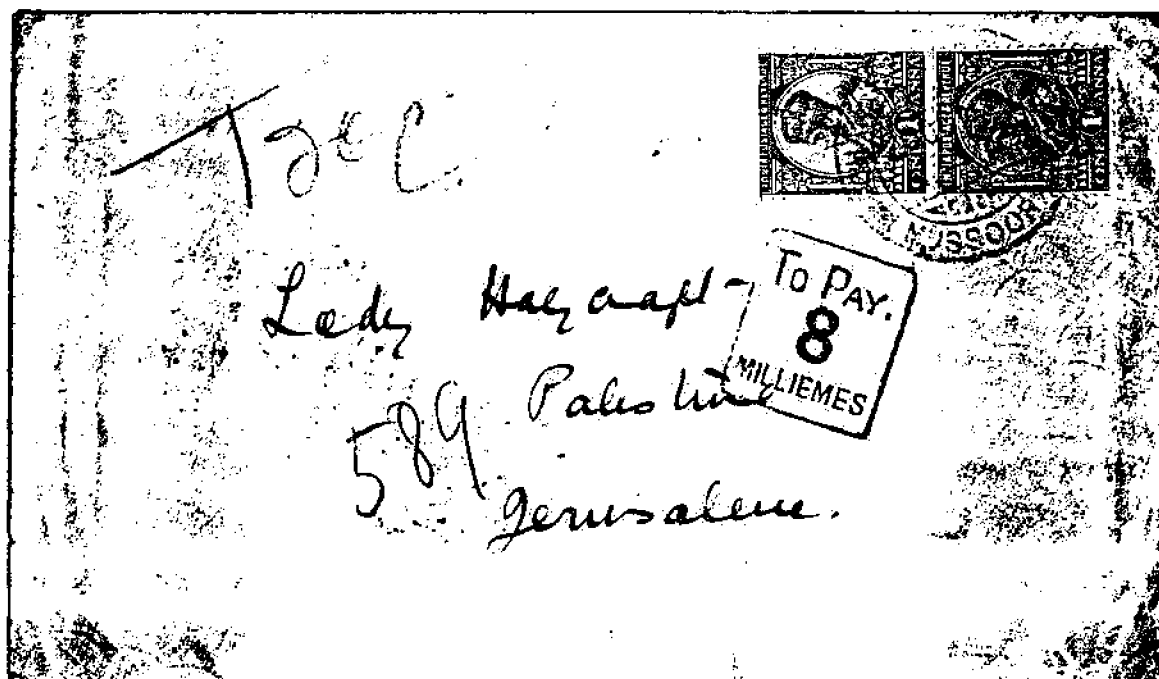
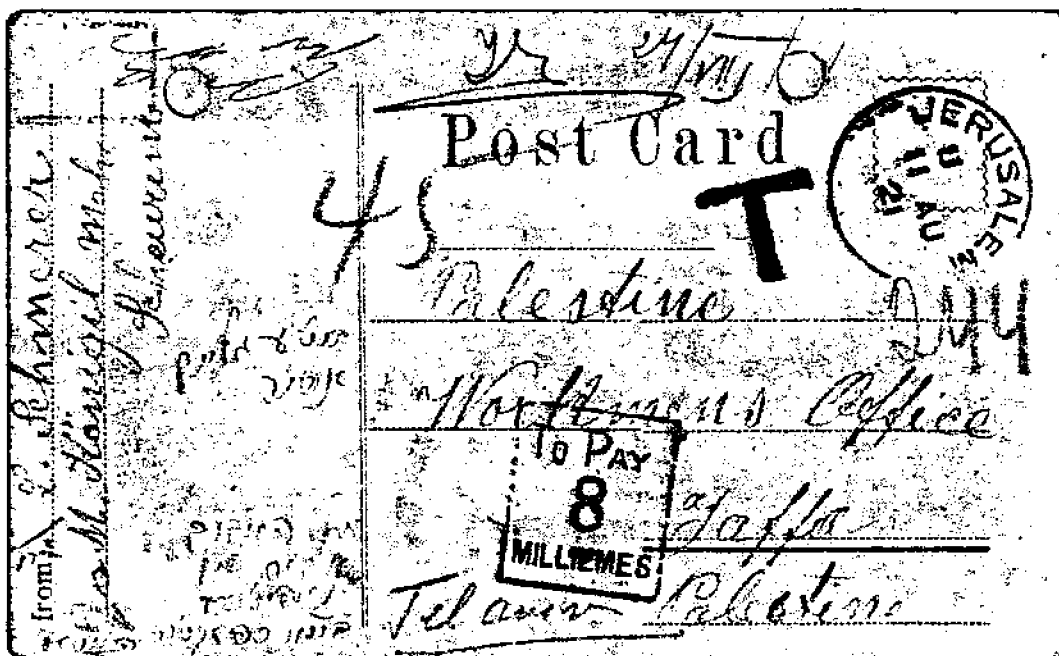


A number of contributions are being held for publication in the next BULLETIN

OUR MEMBERS REPORT

An interesting subject has recently come to light and has been commented upon by several of our members. Firstly Mr Zvi Alexander sent me a photocopy of a postcard in his collection. It was posted unfranked in Jerusalem on 11 AU 21 and bears a "T" marking struck in black which was apparently applied at the office of despatch. It was addressed to Tel Aviv, Jaffa where a Postage Due handstamp was struck upon it. The handstamp reads "TO PAY" at the top, MILLIEMES at the foot and the figure "8" in the middle, all contained in a boxed upright rectangle. This handstamp obviously required the postman to collect the amount due before handing over the item to the addressee. This procedure remained in use until April 1923 when the locally printed Postage Due stamps came into use. Another item dealt with in the same way is in the collection of the author. It is a cover from India addressed to Lady Haycroft at Jerusalem, who was the wife of Sir Thomas Haycroft the chief justice at that time. This letter arrived in Jerusalem on 8 NO 21. It may be observed that the frame or box of this "TO PAY" handstamp, although very similar to the one used at Jaffa has slightly rounded corners. Two more examples were seen by society members who attended the December London display given by Maxwell Seshold. Both Mr Seshold's items were postcards and were delivered to Jerusalem in February 1923.

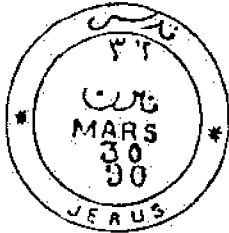
R Norgate



POINTS FROM LETTERS

THE JERUS POSTMARK (p.127)

Dr Jerome L. Byers has submitted photostats of two items from his collection. The postmarks are not very clear and we are showing their tracings from his album pages. He comments: "There seem to be two types of datestamps. The numeral for the day of the month is squeezed between the month and the year on the registered official cover (MARS/30/90) whereas the day is omitted from the September cover. I have not seen a postmark such as described by Steichele."

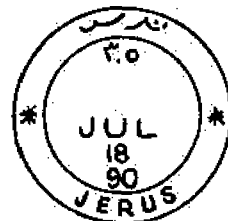
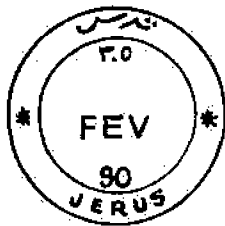
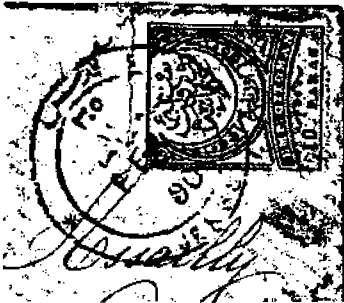


Mars 30 1890 on official registered cover to Jaffa Court of Justice. (Turkish black negative registration seal alongside on the cover).

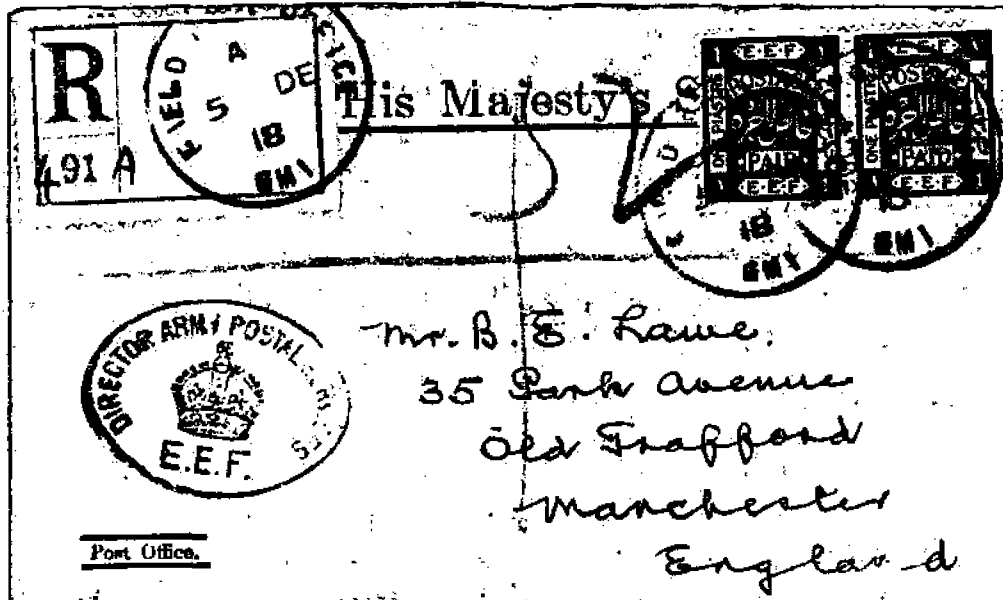


Sept 1890 cancelling Turkish 10 Para 1890 issue (printed matter rate) on cover to Germany. Probably Jewish New Year card.

Mrs Hilda Jeidel has sent two examples. A departure cancellation FEV/90 on a cover to Paris and an arrival cancellation, JUL/18/90. She comments that the February date is the only example known to her and that all these cancellations seem to be struck in 1890.



"A" MARKING ON GMI REGISTERED LABELS (p.135)



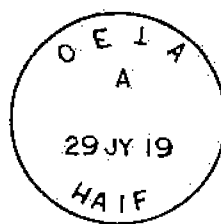
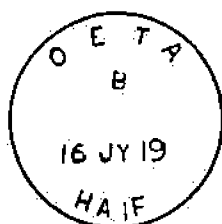
Two longer items appear elsewhere in this Bulletin. Mr David Dorfman has contributed another example, identical in format, DAPS cachet and handwriting of the address to England. It is franked with a pair of 1 piastre stamps and although it is cancelled some eleven weeks later, the registration number, including the manuscript first numeral, is 361 lower and the "A" is not struck but handwritten.

SALVED MAIL 1918 (p.139)

Mr Norman J Collins writes: "Regarding the editorial note below my short article. There was one further ship from which salved mail could have come and this is the Upada. Although it was torpedoed, it reached port. It was attacked on 27th April 1918. Mr Remington's information is based on information which I passed to him as editor in 1979. The original can be seen in Bulletin 94, page 25."

HAIF (NO SECOND A) OETA CANCEL WITH INVERTED T (p.139)

Mr David Dorfman reports the following HAIF postmarks:-



16 JY 19 with index B as arrival but T upright (normal) in OETA.
29 JY 19 with index A as despatch and T inverted.

Please report other dates to the editor.

ARAB PROPAGANDA LABELS (p.163)

Mr David Dorfman comments: "The faked registration ER RAMLE covers do not exist in a very large quantity. The registration labels were merely lifted at random from cheap covers. Thus far, only 3 such covers are known to me - the third one is also to the same addressee, but at Masmiya Al Kabira. All three covers have filing holes in identical positions. Also, the identical KHAN YUNIS arrival postmark is recorded on page 61 of my new book."

SHEQEL STANDBY STAMPS (p.170)

Mr John Swinnerton has reported the following varieties, not listed in the table:

Sheqel Design 5.00 white gum no phosphor
5.00 green gum 2 phosphor:
right-hand bar extends to the bottom of the tab. (left-hand bar normal).
Seven Species 0.40 white gum (no phosphor)

Would members please check their collections and let the editor know of similar or additional varieties.

AEROGRAMME NEWS (p.173)

Mr John Shaw has in his collection examples of the 25 and 60 sheqel issues without additional adhesives. "Perhaps they are unofficial?" He also points out that the French inscription has been included on all aerogrammes since 1964, although the wording has been changed at least once. He wonders why the French language has now been dropped entirely.

In addition to the stamp issues mentioned, Guinea has also produced a unique souvenir sheet. It includes the stamp as illustrated in Bulletin 114. Underneath this stamp, the souvenir sheet shows a synagogue scene with the Reader and boys in prayer shawls surrounding an open Torah scroll. Such a ceremony has not been depicted as yet even on an Israeli stamp! Incidentally, in that stamp of a group of Jews leaving the Jewish Quarter of Cordova, Maimonides is the young boy above the letters BLIQ - he was only 12 years old at the time.



THE BULLETIN

I am very grateful to all those who commented. I was very fortunate in the scope and quality of material available for No. 114. It is up to members to submit articles and even to change the balance of emphasis. Two further points need to be mentioned.

- a. Reduced illustrations. These are sometimes disliked and can be misleading. However, interesting features on a cover may be surrounded by large blank spaces and may be perfectly clear when reduced in size. We shall always show cancellations and cachets in actual size and indicate reductions of other items in the legends.
- b. Flimsy Bulletin covers. This was done to save time (and money) in production. We have stiff covers available: blank front and unprinted back. Members who would like to attach such cards to their Bulletin No. 114 should notify the Editor before June 1987.

A LETTER FROM DENIS VANDERVELDE

"Pre-stamp letter from Haifa, 1855" There is no mystery about 'Akri', which Mr. Remington (or his translator) queried: this was the Italian form of Akko, which I have on 18th. century letters. It is a variant of 'San Giovanni d'Acri', (which I also have on 19th. century letters). The cholera outbreak of 1854/55 in the Eastern Mediterranean is well documented, primarily affecting Greece, the Ionian Islands and Egypt in 1855.

"Acre AR Cachet used in 1900" As owner of the cover recorded by the late Dr Hirst and repeated in this article, I am sure the AR handstamp is the same one. The statement that these marks "served both for advice of receipt and for registration purposes" is technically correct, but needs qualification, which I think I can offer. i) A letter sent registered but not "AR" bears this handstamp with the 'A' deleted in manuscript, presumably because Akko had no 'R' handstamp. ii) Single rated letters to places outside the Ottoman Empire with this handstamp can be checked as to its usage by reference to the postage paid (i.e. the stamps used). Where these total 3 piastres, as on my cover illustrated on p.129, we know that a 1 piastre AR fee was paid, postage being 1 piastre and registration alone another 1 piastre.

"A Mea Shearim Circular Letter, 1904" The paragraph concerning rates to overseas destinations is indeed a puzzle. If they are for parcel post (and I have my doubts), then any "rate" can be EITHER for a given weight, OR a minimum charge (the actual rate being weight determined). If the first hypothesis is examined, then Dr Loebi's

query 4) remains: there is very little logic. "China 17" against "India 18" could be attributable to the overland courier route from Constantinople to Teheran, of which I have written elsewhere, which may well have connected with overland services to the east under Russian sponsorship: mail to India and Siam would have been sent by P & O (British) steamship. Similarly, the ratio of 'Argentina 18' to 'Peru 26' is explicable in that there were South American steam packets direct from Europe to Buenos Ayres, but that Peruvian mails had to be taken overland across the Isthmus of Panama and thence by the Pacific Steam Navigation Company, a much more expensive journey. But Chilean mail was taken by the same vessels as Peruvian and lay beyond (i.e. south of) Peru, so why only 23 grusch?

The second hypothesis, that there were minimum rates for specific destinations, seems more likely. But before we go overboard for either, it would be wisest to ascertain whether these are Parcel rates, and what they mean. I am not sure that Dr Loebl is right to equate the grusch (groschen) with the piastre. I believe a grusch was $\frac{1}{2}$ piastre - or possible even less. Briefly, a piastre was worth 2d (sterling). A 'grusch' was certainly no more than 1d and if it was worth one hundredth of an Austrian florin (2/-), then it can be equated with $\frac{1}{40}$ Sterling - perhaps some other reader can advise? (I think the mistake - which also occurs in George Mikes' work, 'The Prophet Motive', arises from the subsequent devaluation of Turkish currency, which did indeed leave the piastre worth less than 1d, and therefore interchangeable with the 'grusch'.). I am reasonably sure that in 1904, the grusch was worth considerably less than a Piastre.

"Hotel Cachets of Palestine" Mr Pearlman's hypothesis is interesting, but based on false premises, alas. It is not true that hotel cachets were more widely used in Palestine than elsewhere; they were common throughout tourist areas of the Ottoman Empire, notably Constantinople, Greece, Beyrouth and the like. Where hotels actually housed post offices, as in Egypt, they were not needed of course.

Again, I have these early picture postcards of several Holy Land Hotels - not just Howard's, but the Grand New in Jerusalem, the Hotel de L'Europe and the Kaminitz, all postally used, but WITHOUT the cachets of the hotel on the reverse. I think this disposes of the "commission" argument. And, while Mr Pearlman considers Howard's cachet unsightly, I do not think we can assume that turn-of-the-century visitors did so. More to the point, Alexander Howard, a great showman and self-publicist (whose history I am writing) welcomed every chance of self-promotion, applying this cachet to many cards which did not bear a picture of his hotel (including postal stationery). In short, I think the function of the cachet was to advertise the hotel to the overseas recipients of the mail.

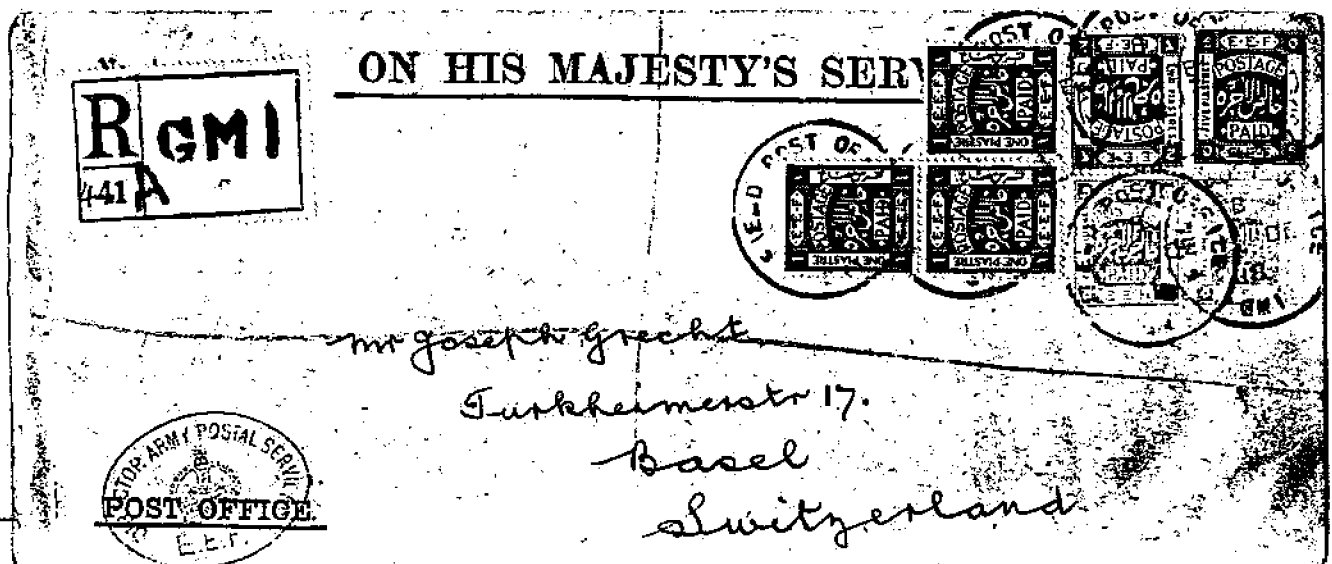
Much more interesting, however, is the undoubted fact that certain hotels outside Jerusalem (and one in Jericho in particular) sometimes struck their cachet in an unusual blue or violet ink, which was also used for the postal cancellation. This could be co-incidence - or more likely, the efforts of a determined salesman in a country not over-endowed with supplies of ink; but it just might be more significant. Perhaps the hotel undertook to cancel its visitors' mail with the Post Office's handstamp, when it had a messenger going to Jerusalem? Or perhaps the clerk went down to the hotel with his handstamp, and therefore used their ink-pad? I think careful study of the usages of unusual inks might well indicate whether there is a pattern to them, as I believe. But its interpretation is still likely to elude us.

"A" MARKING ON GM 1 REGISTERED LABELS

Under the above heading in bulletin 114 our London study group reported five covers with a handstruck "A" adjacent to the registration serial number. With further research the date range may be extended to 1st December 1918 and enclosed in the cover of this date was a letter signed by Col. P Warren D.A.P.S. It is obvious from the contents of the letter that the addressee was a postage stamp dealer in Switzerland who had sent an order for E.E.F. postage stamps. These detailed in the

reply were forwarded to him enclosed in the cover and went through the GMI office on 1 DE 18. From this letter and other covers examined we may conclude that the "A" marking was used to indicate a separate section of the GMI post office that was dealing with the sale of E.E.F. postage stamps to the philatelic trade. Having established the purpose of this sub division in the GMI office, it now becomes clearer why a substantial proportion of these covers are considerably overfranked. In the case of the cover mentioned above it has stamps to a total value of 11 piastres. It is recorded that letters of up to 20gms weight were carried for 1 piastre to destinations abroad with an additional charge of 6 milliemes per extra 20 gms or part of 20 gms. Registration was a further 1 piastre. Whether insurance was available for items sent through the post is uncertain but this would be unlikely to amount to the overpayment. Knowing that the letter is to a philatelic trader it is more probable that the original order called for certain values of stamps used and these were attached to the cover and cancelled in the usual way. In addition to the items seen for the F.P.O. GMI some three others have been brought to our notice emanating from Army P.O. SZ 10 (Cairo). Two of these bear the cachet of the Director of Army Postal Services E.E.F. and the other a larger oval cachet inscribed Army Post Office with SZ 10 at the foot. These covers are dated between 17.1.19 and 9.6.19. The first cover in date order is addressed to the same stamp dealer in Switzerland as the cover discussed above for GMI. There is one variation in the case of the SZ10 covers; their registration labels do not bear a handstamped "A" but a manuscript "C" after the registration serial number. It is reasonable to conclude that these covers too, were used to carry E.E.F. stamps to the philatelic trade.

Acknowledgements are due to J Firebrace, Z Galibov and R Norgate.



General Headquarters, 1st Echelon,
Egyptian Expeditionary Force,
30th November 1918.

Mr Joseph Grecht

In reply to your application dated 31st ult respecting the purchase of E.E.F. Postage stamps, I herewith enclose stamp as detailed below to the total value of your remittance.

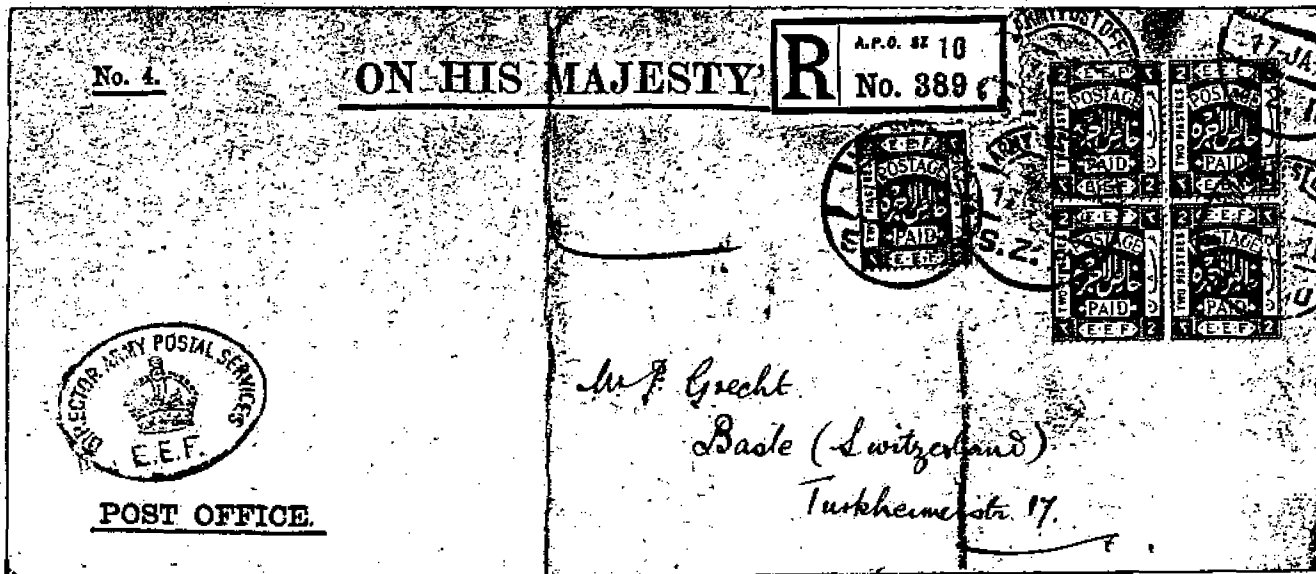
D.2064/0/117
ref.

20 @ 1 millieme.	36 @ 1 Piastre.
20 @ 2 milliemes.	17 @ 2 Piastres.
20 @ 4 milliemes.	17 @ 5 Piastres.
36 @ 5 milliemes.	

50 @ 1m = 50
50 @ 2m = 100
50 @ 4m = 200
50 @ 5m I = 250
50 @ 5m II = 250
850 = 85 pia

P. Pravenchal

Director of Army Postal Services.



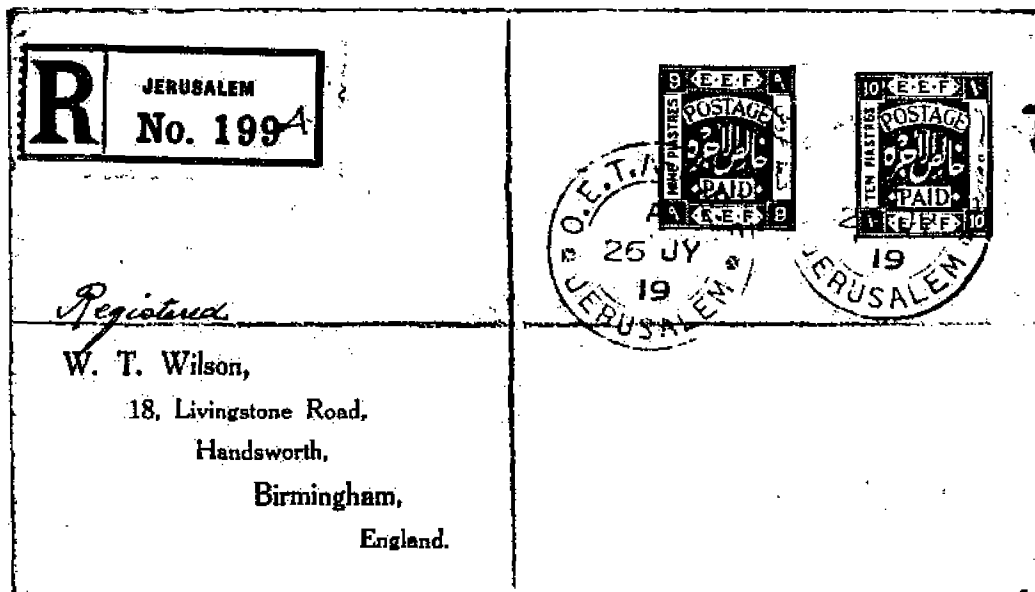
"A" MARKING ON REGISTERED LABELS

By Norman J Collins

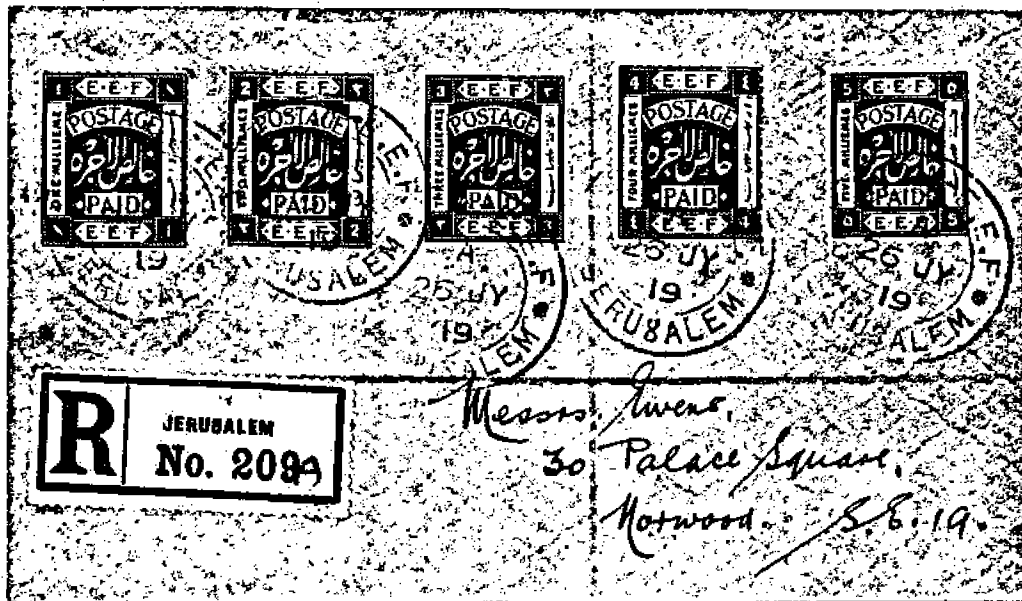
In Bulletin 114, page 135 the London Research Group raised a question regarding registered labels from FPO GM1 to which the letter 'A' had been added after the number. This brought to mind two covers in my collection which were posted on the 26th July 1919 at Jerusalem, and which are cancelled by the DETA - EEF cds for that date. The registration labels are of the civilian type and after the number there has been added an 'A' in red ink.

The common feature of these two covers is that they are both to philatelic addresses: one to W T Wilson who is well known for his covers obtained by writing to many postal administrations. The other is addressed to Messrs. Ewens the stamp dealers. So it would seem that both my covers held replies from the postal administration and possibly stamps ordered by the addressees.

Looking at the GM1 cover and my covers I came to a common denominator: all three are from the POSTAL ADMINISTRATION. My theory, and I stress it is only a theory, is that the section dealing with replies from administrative officers had special rolls of labels and possibly a special receipt book. Such records would be separate from the normal 'over the counter' day-to-day business. Also no doubt expenditure for postage would have to be accounted for separately. So my hypothesis is that the 'A' stands for ADMINISTRATION.



My two covers are illustrated and one will note that the Wilson cover bears a label numbered 199A and the Ewens cover 209A. If a registered cover from the Jerusalem post office on the same date to a normal commercial address is in any member's collection I hope they will report it as this might be the key to proving or disproving my theory and the same applies to the GM1 registered covers dated 17th September 1918.



THE INTERIM POSTAL SERVICES OF THE JEWISH STATE

By Moshe A Pertzalan

The Archives of the Jewish National Fund (Keren Kayemet Le'yisra'el - K.K.L.) contain a series of documents relating to the initiation of postal services for the Jewish population when the British mandate ended.

This archive material is not easily accessible nor is it published. Therefore I should like to express by deepest gratitude, also on behalf of all Holy Land philatelists, to Dr D Rotem for his gracious help in allowing me access to these documents.

It will be recalled that the British were given the mandate for the civilian administration of Palestine in 1920. This was approved by the League of Nations on 24th July 1922. Its successor, the United Nations, voted on 29th November 1947 to end the British mandate and to partition Palestine.

The Arab population in Palestine and the neighbouring countries did not accept the partition resolution and on the day following its vote, war hostilities broke out against the Jews. Thus, the first stage of the War of Independence began.

The "National Council" of the Jewish Community, the "Jewish Agency" and the "Zionist Executive", decided not to delay any longer the preparations for an Independent Jewish State. They elected the "Minhelet Ha'am", which later became the "Provisional Government", appointed a "Commission of five men" to prepare and formulate the Constitution of the "State of Israel".

The State of Israel was proclaimed on the 14th of May 1948. On the same night, the armies of five Arab nations moved into Palestine. This was the beginning of stage two in the "War of Independence".

Public administration and services to the population during the transition period did not proceed as desired. On the restricted local or even municipal level, they

continued more or less satisfactorily, but on the larger State plan there was practically a complete failure.

The Postal Services were, to the Jewish population, of prime importance, within the country and with the outer world.

Inside the country, the Arab hostilities endangered the roads and communications and with the outside world, no regular air and sea services could be established or planned. But supplies had to be brought and mail had to be carried in both directions. Let us explore how the postal system was handled to continue its services without interruptions.

In the following pages I summarise a total of 27 documents. Little comment is needed - they speak for themselves.

- 1) A letter dated 26th March 1948 by Mr M B Meiri to Mrs H Even-Tov, discloses an agreement "Top Secret" between the Mandate Government and the U.N.O. appointed "Commission of Five", to overprint the existing postage stamps with the word "UNO" and to use them as from the 15th May, until the termination of the Mandate, which should be not later than the 1st of August 1948. Mr Meiri mentions further that a consignment of 850,000 20 mils stamps was stolen by the Arabs at the port of Haifa. This information has to be passed on to the Commission and induce them not to overprint the 20 mils stamps at all and so prevent the Arabs from a profit of £P17,000. Mr Meiri continues, he had a visit from Mr Cohen, the local manager of the Dutch K.L.M. flight company. K.L.M. is ready to carry mail from and to the Jewish State, in the meantime on a mandatory permit to handle company mail. The letter contains some more interesting observations concerning postage stamps. The letter was telegraphed to Tel-Aviv.
- 2) A "Single Sheet" undated, part of a letter or essay by Prof E L Sukenik, the famous archaeologist, presenting the description of seven ancient Jewish coins, to serve as a design for the Jewish postage stamps to come. He promises good photographs of the coins.
- 3) The famous "Public Notice No. 53" by the Mandate Department of Posts" dated 13th April 1948. It begins: "In the absence of any communication from the United Nations Commission for Palestine, providing for acceptance of responsibility for the continuance of Post Office services, the Postmaster General hereby announces....." giving the detailed schedule of the closing dates of the post offices throughout the country. The rural Post Office will close on the 15th April 1948 and the main Post Offices at Haifa, Jaffa, Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Lydda airport, on the 5th May. For full text see the book "Minhelet Ha'am" by E. Fluri.
- 4) The historical "circular letter No. 1" issued by the Jewish Agency and the National Council for the "Community of Israel" dated 25th April 1948. It is based already on the assumption that the "Termination of the British Mandate" will occur on the 15th May and that on the 16th, the Hebrew Post will commence operations fully.

The circular calls on all employees to remain at their posts and continue their duties as usual, same days and same working hours.

During the "transition period" 1st - 15th of May 1948, the labels of the K.K.L. (Jewish National Fund) and of the "Kofer Hayishuv" (Community tax) will be supplied and used as official postage stamps, but within the country only. Mail to foreign countries must use the Mandatory Postage Stamps.

- a) Annex to circular No. 1 - "Details for the dispatch of letters and their handling" contains instructions for all manipulations concerning letters, parcels, delivery, transport, P.O. boxes, collecting postage dues, post marking, registration, payments, documentation, etc. etc. For full text see Fluri.

b) A second annex to "Circular No. 1" - "Telegraph and Telephone Department".

Instructions are given for the reception and sending of telegrams and the forms to be used. Telegrams to foreign countries are sent from the Tel-Aviv or Haifa Telegraph Office only. All other Post Offices are to send the accepted forms, including the payments, to Tel Aviv or Haifa by registered express mail.

c) A third annex - "Accounting Department", will be opened as of May 1st in Tel-Aviv, and all forms are to be sent there. All Post Offices will receive together with this circular a quantity of "Hebrew Stamps" and will confirm receipt. For more stamps, apply to the office. Additional instructions are given to the Postmasters on book-keeping matters.

5) "Postal Services in Jerusalem" - A letter dated 29th April 1948 from the K.K.L. Jerusalem branch, to the Head Office at Tel-Aviv, asserts that they are ready to organise and operate regular postal services, in "Jewish Jerusalem". K.K.L. stamps will be used and the present postal staff employed. In the future, they may be able to bring in mail from Tel-Aviv, Petach-Tikva, Ramat-Gan, and from Haifa and the north too. The Head Office should approach and obtain the consent of the appropriate authorities immediately and the services will start on Sunday 2nd May.

6) K.K.L. (Jewish National Fund, J.N.F.) labels for postage stamps: A letter dated 2nd May 1948, from the National Committee of the K.K.L. to their Head Office in Jerusalem: Re - Yours of 20.4.48: "We reached an agreement with the Va'ad Leumi (National Council) that the K.K.L. labels will serve as postage stamps during the transition period. A large quantity of labels of various denominations was delivered to them in the total amount of £P 1376 - and they will have to pay 25 percent only. We're very glad that a K.K.L. stamp, which from the beginning symbolised our aspirations for an independent state, will do its duty on its realisation. We do regret that Kofer Hayishuv (Community Tax) label will be used too, as decided by the Va'ad Leumi".

A handwritten footnote, in ink, says: "At the last moment, it was decided that the K.K.L. labels only will be used". This letter was received at the Jerusalem office on the 3rd May.

7) A short note, addresses not mentioned, dated 2nd May 1948, states: "I overprinted K.K.L. stamps to be used as temporary postage stamps at the Nahla Post Office branch, Haifa. A souvenir from D Bar-Rav-Hai, chairman of the Committee for State Services, Haifa and the Galilee Districts".

8) An unaddressed sheet and unsigned, dated 5th May 1948, headed: "Proposal for postal services in Jerusalem". First are given the quantities and kinds of the mail handled during normal times, and these will and are to be reduced. No printed matter will be accepted, but "Registered Letters" are essential.

Transportation to and from Tel-Aviv must be guaranteed. A Central Post Office will be equipped for sorting the outgoing and incoming mail, and for the Accounting Department. This Office must be located centrally in the midst of the Jewish population, for instance if the Cafe Europa can be rented, or a similar building. This office will also sell stamps and accept registered letters. Only three branches should be operated, at Rehavia, Mea-Shearim and Mahane Yehuda. They will be open 8 hours each day and a special car will collect the mail twice a day and bring it to the Central Office.

"As for postage stamps", there may be some solutions, such as: 1) The Jewish State will print stamps and we may use them with some kind of special overprint. 2) K.K.L. labels can be overprinted. 3) Printing special postage stamps for Jerusalem, which may be a source of substantial income from philatelists all over the world. There are many other details on various matters.

- 9) A short "Press Release" to "Kol Hamagen" (Voice of Defence) and "Kol Yerushalayim" dated Jerusalem 6th May, is to inform the public that the arrangements to reopen the postal services are pursued and a notice will be issued in due time.
- 10) A note from "Va'adat Hamatzav" (State of Emergency Commission) to the local K.K.L. office, dated Jerusalem 6th May, acknowledges receipt of the stamps and that payment will be made on the opening of the Post Offices.
- 11) The "Jewish State" K.K.L. labels as Postage Stamps. A letter dated Jerusalem 7th May 1948, to the local K.K.L. management, reports that "With consent of Dr. Granovsky, the whole stock of the "Jewish State" stamps, without denomination, has been handed over on the previous afternoon to Mr. Renan of the Jewish Agency. Mr. Renan promised to pay 2.5 mils per stamp, totalling £P397.500 for 189 thousand stamps received. I gave them the printing plates, two blocks of 50 stamps for safe keeping". The signature of the writer is illegible.
- 12) A letter dated 9th May 1948 from the K.K.L. Jerusalem Branch to the Head Office in Tel-Aviv, informing them about the stamps transaction (our items 10-11). The printing plates, after negotiations, will remain with the K.K.L.. An additional printing of stamps was not discussed as the actual quantity may suffice for the time being. We showed them some samples of our Service Stamps as they would have Revenue Stamps too.
- 13) A letter dated 19th May from the "Va'adat Hamatzav", marked "Urgent" to the "Va'adat Hadelek" (Fuel Commission), requesting them to allocate 4 (four) gallons of petrol daily, for the post van, immediately.
- 14) A note, no date, from Dr Bernard Joseph, to the Commander of the convoy, ordering him to include everyday into the convoys a Posts Van, for the forwarding of mail to Tel-Aviv.
- 15) To D Ben-Gurion, Tel-Aviv, 9th May 1948: In the name of the "Va'adat Hamatzav", I am happy to congratulate you, "The great dreamer of our times", on the opening of the first Hebrew Post Services in Jerusalem. Signed: H Even-Tov.
- 16) An announcement by "Minhelet Ha'am" dated 10th May, "Tomorrow, Sunday 10th of May, the Postal Services will be resumed in Jerusalem". Follows the details of the P.O. Branches, kinds of mail accepted, working days and hours, and so on.
- 17) A note dated 9th May, by Ze'ev Sherf, Hanna and Renan, marked "Without delay" quoting: "Transmit to Kaplan and Remez, glad to inform you that one hour ago the post offices of Jerusalem were opened. (On Sunday the 10th - authors note) "Awaiting your instructions for extension of the service".
- 18) Minutes of a meeting at the Jewish Agency, Jerusalem, on the 9th May. Subject: Delivery of postage stamps to the Post Offices. Regulations were adopted on place and times of delivery, payments and the persons in charge. It was decided that until the 16th May, the Postal Agencies would not receive stamps for sale.
- 19) An Information Sheet, in English, to all offices of the J.N.F., re: "Jewish Postal Stamps":

May 10, 1948

Jewish National Fund,
All Offices (7)

Re: Jewish Postal Stamps

Dear Colleagues,

You will have learnt from news reports that the Jewish authorities opened up postal services throughout the Jewish areas in Palestine - within and beyond the Jewish State - on May 9th 1948. The Jewish Postal Service covers for the time being acceptance and delivery

of ordinary and registered letters as well as printed matter for local delivery.

We are enclosing a series of 3 stamps (5, 10 and 25 mils) of the provisional issue which has been adapted from the latest of the JNF stamps published shortly after the United Nation's decision of November 29th, 1947, and overprinted on the map in black letters with the word "DO'AR" and the value in mils. The 5 mil stamp covers printed matter in Jerusalem, the 10 mil ordinary mail and the 25 mil registered letters throughout the operation area of the Jewish postal service.

By this or next mail we shall send you a short article on the new stamp issue and on previous issues of JNF stamps used for postal purposes at different times in earlier years. We shall also send you photographs of the present and those earlier years.

Yours faithfully

E Marton

- 20) A letter from the Head Office of the K.K.L. to Mrs Even-Tov, dated 10th May, confirming the order to print 240 thousand more stamps. 40000 - 5m., 160000 - 10m. and 40000 - 25 mils. The price will be 2.5 mils per stamp, plus the cost of printing. The printing plates will be kept by the K.K.L.
- 21) Circular letter No. 2, by Minhelet Ha'am, Department of Transports, Post, Telegraph and Telephones. Subject: "Postage Stamps". It was sent out to all Post Offices in the country, dated 9th May. It announces the end of sale of the K.K.L. stamps on the 14th May and their validity until the 22nd only, and the introduction of the Postage Stamps of the Jewish Independent State, as from the opening of Post Offices on Sunday, 16th May 1948. For full text see "The Minhelet Ha'am" by E Fluri.
- 22) "Circular Letter No. 3" by the above authorities. Subject: "Postmarks", dated 10th May. The Minhelet Ha'am Postmarks will be withdrawn on the closing of the post offices on Friday the 14th May, everywhere. Opening on Sunday, the 16th, the Tel-Aviv, Jerusalem and Haifa offices will use the new State Postmarks only. Other offices and postal agencies will use again the Mandatory devices, until they receive the new ones. For full text see the book by E. Fluri.
- 23) A letter to the Head Office of K.K.L. in Tel-Aviv, dated 13th May, reporting that according to the request by the Minhelet Ha'am - Otzar Ha'am, we delivered to them 159 thousand stamps and we are printing 240 thousand more. We are enclosing a proposal, by Mr. Korngold, to print for the State new postage stamps. There will be eight stamps showing settlements in various colours. The value of the stamp will include the postage fees plus a certain amount for the K.K.L. fund. This offer may be realised when a) the relations of our postal authorities with the U.P.U. will be settled, and b) the stamps must bear the name of the State in Latin Letters, so what is our name?

It is understood that this project is for the interim period only, but try to persuade the leaders to apply it for the future State. There are more ideas and details in the letter.

- 24) A letter from the Secretariat of the "Minhelet Ha'am" in Jerusalem to the Postmaster General in Tel-Aviv dated 14th May 1948: "By the present, we are sending you, enclosed herewith, the copies of the correspondence pertaining to the negotiations we had for the organisation of the Postal Services in Jerusalem. We presume you will be interested to keep this material in your archives in Tel-Aviv". Further on, there is a very harsh complaint about the mail bags still remaining in Jerusalem. According to the agreement of 5.5.48 aeroplanes should

have carried the mail between Jerusalem and Tel-Aviv, but not a single aeroplane came and not a single mail bag left Jerusalem. All this is kept as "Top Secret", as the disappointment and anger of the population, who were so enthusiastic when the opening of the Post Offices was announced, may be very harmful. Every effort must be made immediately with the appropriate authorities, to begin at once the transportation of the mail.

(Note by Mr Pertzalan: The first mailbags arrived in Tel-Aviv on 16th May.)

- 25) A letter to the "Otzar Ha'am" (People's Treasury), Jerusalem, from the K.K.L. Jerusalem, dated 18th May, 1948, confirming the agreement from the day before about the renunciation of the expenses they had for the printing of the 240,000 additional stamps and the amount to be paid will be £P600.00 only, and will you please transfer the money.
- 26) A letter from Mr Sh Shulkis, Director of the "National Committee" of the K.K.L. in Tel-Aviv to the "Head Office" in Jerusalem, dated 21st November 1954. By request of the Head office, he is summing up the details of the negotiations between the K.K.L. and the "Va'ad Le'umi", on the use and supply of the K.K.L. labels, as temporary postage stamps during the "Minhelet Ha'am" period. Mr Shulkis represented the K.K.L. at some "Real Estate Taxing Commission", together with the "Magbit Hahitgaysut" (Mobilisation Appeal) people, and in one of their meetings he heard about a forthcoming accord of the "Magbit" with the "Va'ad Leumi" (National Council) to use the "Kofer Hayishuv" (Community Tax) labels as the official postage stamps during the transition period.

Mr Shulkis contacted immediately Mr Grabovsky, who was in charge of the renewal of the Post Services of the "Jewish State", and explained to him that the roles and functions performed and achieved by the K.K.L. labels in the struggle for Independence, since the birth of Zionism, destined them to serve as the "First Jewish State Postage Stamps".

It was agreed to bring up the matter before Mr David Remez, chairman of the "Va'ad Leumi". There was also the idea that the Kofer Hayishuv and K.K.L. labels will be used jointly. But Mr Remez's decision was in favour of the K.K.L. and the K.K.L. only. Mr Shulkis and Mr Grabovsky concluded the deal with the K.K.L. on the transfer of the quantity of stamps needed and that their price will be 25% of the face value on the labels. On the 29th April 1948, The Va'ad Leumi handed the K.K.L. a letter confirming the deal.

And so the "Jewish National Fund" labels had the great honour to be the first Postage Stamps of the Jewish Independent State as from 2nd to 16th May 1948.

Enclosed is a copy of the letter dated 15th November 1948 requesting the balance of £P4217,888 labels not yet paid for. Signed Sh. Shulkis.

- 27) A list marked "Post Offices", not dated, giving the names of localities of Post Offices, Branches or Postal Agencies, arranged by districts, and the cities of Tel-Aviv and Haifa. Jerusalem, being "besieged" and "isolated" is not on the list.

In Tel-Aviv there are 4 post office branches. In Haifa 4 branches and 3 postal agencies. The Southern district has 15 localities with branches and 17 agencies. The Northern district has 20 branches with 20 agencies. A total of 93 post offices to serve the population of the New State, the State of the Jews.

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HERZL STAND-BY DEFINITIVES

By Michael Kaplan

The Herzl stand-by series was issued on 1 January 1986 to accommodate the currency change that took place on that date. It consists of eight values which replace the Sheqel and Seven Species stand-by stamps withdrawn from sale on the previous day.

The series represents the fourth to bear the name Stand-by, a term coined by the Philatelic Service in 1975 in response to the beginnings of an inflationary economic situation. As the previous SB issues (Lira, Sheqel, Seven Species) the Herzl series enables new values to be prepared as necessary, on relatively short notice, with a minimum of graphic design work and cylinder preparation (Now that inflation seems to be under control, no new values have been deemed necessary since the issue date, and none have been released).

Although the Herzls are clearly "definitive" rather than "commemorative", two general characteristics of the Stand-by series might be mentioned here that distinguish them from recent definitives.

1. There is a common design for all values. In the Lira and Herzl series the design is printed in the same colour for each value, with the value itself printed in a second, varying colour. In the the Sheqels and Seven Species, the common design is printed in a different colour for each value. (In the Agora overprints of 1960, termed a "provisional" issue, a uniform design was printed in a different colour for each value, with the changing value always printed in black, indicating that this series was also prepared on a "stand-by" basis in advance of the currency change).
2. There is no Philatelic Service identification plate-number assigned to each stamp; instead, the designation SB or STAND-BY appears as a marginal inscription within a hexagonal or rectangular box. (The only exceptions are the first two issues in the SB - Lira - the 1.85 IL and 2.45 IL values - which were assigned numbers.)

The Herzls are printed by rotogravure from cylinders, and are perforated and guillotined on press. Each printing sheet contains two post office panes of 50 stamps, and a matched set of plate blocks would contain one with colour registration crosses in the upper right margin (when these are not trimmed off - see comment below) and one plate block without such crosses.

Two or three cylinders were used for the preparation of each value: the design cylinder, common to the entire series, containing the blue portrait of Herzl; the value cylinder, unique and in a different colour for each value; and the phosphor cylinder (when applicable) containing one or two bars depending on the proposed use of the stamp.

Several characteristics distinguish the Herzl series from its predecessors:

1. This is the first Stand-by series to have values in whole Agorot, rather than in fractions of Sheqels or Lirat (e.g. 10 Agorot rather than 0.10 Sheqel).
2. All the values are printed in panes of 50 stamps, including the highest values, which were previously printed in panes of 15 stamps. The small pane format, used in the Sheqel and Seven Species series, has evidently been discontinued. (A pane of the 50 ag. value has a face value of 25 NIS, or currently about \$17.)
3. The design cylinder (portrait of Herzl, country information and marginal inscriptions) has been printed in two distinct shades: dark blue, and medium blue. This seems to have been caused by an ink change occurring between the printing dates of 10.11.85 (2 ag. dark blue) and 26.11.85 (3 ag. medium blue). Curiously, the colour change also occurs in the middle of the 01.11.85 printing of the 1 ag., indicating that the run might have been interrupted and continued.

at a later time, without any change of printing date.

4. On some plate blocks, the colour cross is trimmed off Pane 2. Luckily, there is a distinct flaw in the cylinder enabling us to make positive identification of Pane 2. the STAND-BY rectangle is slightly but visibly tilted relative to the stamp design (see illustration provided by K. Barilan).



Pane 1
STAND-BY rectangle
is parallel to the
stamp frame.



Pane 2
STAND-BY rectangle
is slightly tilted
in relation to the
stamp frame.

Ranges given below are estimates based on material examined and information provided Kalman Barilan, Ezra Berkowitz and Joel Slutzki - all of the Israel Plate Block Study Circle. Ranges indicated in bold type have the design printed in dark blue; all others are in medium blue. W/G indicates white/green gum varieties within a printing run.

Value (Ag.)	Date	Est. Range (thous.)	Phosphor Bars	Value (Ag.)	Date	Est. Range (thous.)	Phosphor Bars
1	01.11.85*	000 - 009 060 - 069+	None	10	24.10.85*	000 - 060 060 - 120+	None
		009 - 060 069 - 120+	None			120 - 140 140 - 160+	None
		120 - 123 123 - 126+	None		02.03.86	160 - 210 210 - 260+	None
	02.02.86 w/g	126 - 166 166 - 206+	None	20	05.11.85*	000 - 060 060 - 120+	One R
2	10.11.85*	000 - 060 060 - 120+	None		19.01.86	120 - 160 160 - 200+	One R
		120 - 130 130 - 140+	None			200 - 205 205 - 210+	One R
	05.03.86	140 - 190 190 - 240+	None		06.04.86	210 - 270 270 - 330+	One R
3	26.11.85*	000 - 060 060 - 120+	None	30	07.11.85*	000 - 060 060 - 120+	One R
	09.03.86	120 - 160 160 - 200+	None			120 - 125 125 - 130+	One R
5	27.10.85*	000 - 060 060 - 120+	None		26.01.86 w/g	130 - 170 170 - 210+	One R
	29.01.86	120 - 160 160 - 200+	None		09.04.86	210 - 260 260 - 310+	One R
				50	29.11.85*	000 - 060 060 - 120+	Two
					21.01.86	120 - 160 160 - 200+	Two

Reprinted with permission from the Israel Plate Block Journal, July 1986.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Palestine Mandate Postmarks, by David Dorfman. Published by Tower of David, Inc. POB 2620, Sarasota, FL 33578, USA, at \$28.50 postpaid. Our member has announced the publication of a new revised and researched edition of this comprehensive book, first published in 1973-74.

This book lists all towns, villages and settlements of the civilian period as well as TPOs and the Military Administration marks. Valuations and comments on fakes and forgeries are included. The three large cities are not covered.

The book gained a Vermeil medal in the Literature section of "Stampshow '86" in Washington D.C. - the largest of the US National shows.

Palestine Mandate 1921-1948, The Crown Agents Requisition Books, by Norman J Collins. Published by SIP Educational Fund, 25113 Duffield Road, Beachwood, OH 44122, USA at \$13.50 postpaid to overseas. Our member has collated and arrayed a vast amount of data relating to all postal and even consular fee material handled by the Crown Agents. A more detailed review may appear in the next Bulletin.

W.P.C. Twentieth Anniversary Number. Our member Mr Norman Gladstone writes as follows: "Leaving politics aside, this book is a must for every philatelic collector of Holyland material. Superbly printed, it has 17 very interesting and unpublished articles on subjects that are only very rarely seen or shown in exhibitions. Printed on 82 pages of art paper with illustrations of a high standard the majority of articles are written by members of BAPIP. I highly recommend this book to our members". For details of how to obtain this publication, which is in a limited edition priced at 25 dollars post free per copy, send cheque or money order to Mr C Tuteur, WPC Treasurer, 1438 West Pratt Blvd, Chicago, Illinois, 60626, U.S.A. or contact Mr Norman Gladstone.

The Judaica Collector. Now well into its sixth year, this magazine is beautifully illustrated and always well-informed. Recently it has spread its wings to cover many other kinds of Jewish collectables as well as stamps - ritual silver, archaeological finds, fine art, posters, books, postcards, postal history and the like - but it remains the indispensable bedside reading of the Jewish Thematic collector. Every issue contains a 'KKL Corner' by Dr Emil Dickstein; the 'yellow pages' (an alphabetical listing of Jews and their work honoured on stamps, by Sally Keston), and several philatelic articles. Three issues per annum for £14.00 (US \$20), payable to The Judaica Collector, Treasurer Harold Jacobs, 27 Crundale Avenue, Kingsbury, London NW9 9PJ

B.A.P.I.P. MEETINGS AND FUTURE PROGRAMME

All meetings are held at the Victory Services Club, 63/69 Seymour Street, London W.2. (6.30pm for 6.45pm, in the Committee Room on the first floor except where noted).

In view of the fact that the last BAPIP publication was the Monograph on Police and Prison Mail, these reports, and members' activities have been delayed.

Thursday 30th September 1986

Norman Gladstone gave, what was probably the first display we have seen, on "Police and Prison Mail in Israel". Despite the title our speaker included material from the Civil Defence and Frontier Guards. The display was based on the extensive research by Mr Gladstone of this rather neglected aspect of Israel's postal history and covered types of cachets and handstamps, the transition from a Jewish Police nucleus into an Israeli Police Force, their re-use of envelopes in the interest of economy, censor labels etc. Full use was made of graphs and illustrations to provide a most interesting and informative display.

There was no October meeting as BAPIP had mounted a combined exhibition at the British Philatelic Exhibition from 14th-19th October which attracted a great deal of attention from several hundred visitors.

Tuesday 25th November 1986

This was devoted to a bring-and-buy auction with Mr R A Topley acting as auctioneer and, as usual, provided an opportunity for members to dispose of unwanted material and to fill some of their own gaps. We hope to re-introduce the annual postal auction during the coming season.

Tuesday 16th December 1986

Our member Maxwell Seshold gave a two-part display of "Morrocco Local Posts" and "Bureaux de Postes" respectively. This included Moroccan Jewish Posts of Fez, Meknes, Mogador, Rabat Mellahs (Jewish Quarters) and inter-country mail from postal services to and from Palestine.

Tuesday 27th January 1987

Ze'ev Galibov displayed material from his superb collection of Mandate stamps including many of the unusual varieties, and enlivened the proceedings with a selection of 'Cinderella' covers of unusual provenance or use with a 'potted' history of each item once more emphasising the tremendous amount of work done by all our speakers to provide an interesting season of meetings.

FUTURE PROGRAMME

The remainder of this season's programme was published in the last Bulletin. The dates for the next season are as follows:- 29th September, 27th October, 24th November, 16th December, 26th January 1988, 23rd February, 22nd March, 26th April and 24th May. In the next Bulletin subjects will be listed. Please put these dates in your diary now. All meetings at the Victory Services Club, 63/65 Seymour Street, London W.2. (6.30 pm for 6.45). Guests are Welcome. Members outside London who would like to arrange a meeting locally are invited to contact the President or the Honorary Secretary.

MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

AWARDS WON BY BAPIP MEMBERS ARE LISTED BELOW WITH APOLOGIES FOR OMISSIONS

(We are usually reliant on members to inform us of their activities and we regret that omissions do occur. This is no doubt due to a natural feeling of modesty on the parts of individuals concerned, but we are very interested to publish their activities.)

British Philatelic Exhibition 1986

Large Vermeil - Z Alexander (Turkish Posts in the Holy Land)
Vermeil - C Fischel (Ottoman Cancellations)
Silver - B A Remington (Interrupted and Disaster Mail of the U.S.A.)
Bronze - A Century of Civil and Military Administration in Jerusalem)
Bronze - I A Miller (Minhelet Ha'am-Israel Forerunners)

Literature Section

Silver - N Gladstone (Post-War Censorship to and from Palestine 1945-1948)

Stockholm 1986

Large Vermeil - Z Galibov (Palestine - the Mandate 1947-1948)
Vermeil - C Fischel (Ottoman Empire Cancellations)
Silver-Bronze - J Fletcher (The Civilian Airgraph Service in Palestine 1941-1945)

ISRAEL NEWS

FESTIVAL STAMPS 5747 (1986)

Denominations: NIS 0.20; 0.40; 0.90

Size: 30.8mm x 40mm

Plate Nos: 18 - 20

Multicoloured

Graphics: D. Ben-Hador

Photolithography, E. Lewin-Epstein Ltd.

Sheets of 15 stamps, 5 tabs

Comb-perforated 14

Issued: 23rd September 1986



THE WORMS MAHZOR

For many hundreds of years the Worms Mahzor was one of the most treasured possessions of the ancient twelfth-century synagogue in the German city of Worms, on the Rhine. On the last page of the manuscript, and in many other places in the book, there are inscriptions by different **hazanim** (cantors) expressing their excitement and praise for the honour of using this precious Mahzor while praying in the synagogue.

The Worms Mahzor is undoubtedly a singular manuscript in its own right, although at the same time it is one of many examples of illuminated Hebrew mahzorim from the Middle Ages. The tradition of illuminating mahzorim started early in the thirteenth century, mainly in southern Germany, whence it spread to other Ashkenazi (German-Jewish) areas.

Mahzor (cycle) is the name given to a lengthy prayer book for use in the synagogue which, besides being an extensive cycle of prayers for the whole year, comprises a number of **piyyutim** (liturgical poems) which have been added to the prayer book through the centuries. Most mediaeval mahzorim are divided for convenience sake into two parts: the autumn, High Holy Days section, and the rest of the year. They start, like the annual agricultural cycle, with the first sabbath after the Feast of Sukot (Tabernacles), when the cycle of Torah readings, starting with Genesis, also begins.

The first part of the Mahzor therefore consists of prayers and **piyyutim** for Hanukah and Purim, the Four Special Sabbaths between Purim and Pessah (Passover), the entire seven days of Passover, the Feast of Shavu'ot (Pentecost) and the Fast of the Ninth of Av, the day of the destruction of both Temples in Jerusalem. The second part starts with the New Year, Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) and the eight days of Sukot.

Most of the illuminations relate to the beginning of a feast or a section of prayers. Some illustrate the text, while others are mere decoration. An example, on one of the stamps, shows a man weighing the shekel for the Temple with a large pair of scales. This illustrates the prayer for the first of the Special Sabbaths, "Sheqalim". The **piyyut** at this point praises God, who is not represented, but should be imagined beyond the gates of heaven, only his "servants", the sun and moon, being depicted. The **piyyut** describes the power of God's judgement, and how the gift of the shekel to the Temple helps to atone for sins. The two lions flanking the arch act as devils trying to

weigh down the scales and send the sinners to hell. Within the letter **alef** of the **piyyut** is the name of Baruch bar Isaac, the **hazan** for whom the Mahzor was written by his nephew, Simḥah bar Yehudah the Scribe of Nuremberg. In fact, from the colophon (scribe's signature) of the manuscript we learn that it was completed in 1272, and from a note by Simḥah the Scribe it is evident that he wrote it in Wurzburg and that it reached Worms only later, in the fifteenth century.

From another inscription it appears plausible that the artist was Shema'ia the Frenchman, who painted most of the illustrations for the opening prayers. However, he did not illuminate the first page of pericope **Sheqalim**: this was done by the scribe, Simḥah.

During the Middle Ages there was no prohibition on depicting human or other figures in mahzorim, Bibles or Haggadot, since there was no fear of idolatry amongst the Jews. Rabbi Meir ben Barukh of Rothenburg, in Franconia (the area where Wurzburg is also situated), the most eminent scholar of the thirteenth century, was questioned about the freedom to illustrate the mahzorim. His answer was that, although no such prohibition derived from the Second Commandment, it was not advisable to do so, since this might distract the reader from his prayers.

It is, however, curious that the man weighing the shekel has a bird's beak instead of a nose and mouth. This was a peculiar stylistic practice in one school of Hebrew illumination in the south of Germany during the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. There is no direct explanation for the phenomenon, but it may be that the Jews distorted figures to avoid their being regarded as complete humans, rather than abstain completely from depicting human beings.

The other two pages featured on the stamps come from the second volume of the Mahzor, which does not belong organically to the first volume, but was written and illuminated about ten years later and then attached to the first. Both illustrations relate to the prayers for Yom Kippur. One shows the gates of heaven, with the heavenly Jerusalem above, opening in response to the power of prayer. The second consists of two roses which illustrate a **piyyut** starting "The rose flower", to which the Jews are compared. During the Second World War the Worms Mahzor was hidden by Dr. Illert, the City Archivist, in the Cathedral of Worms, and thus escaped destruction at the hands of the Nazis. After the war, in which the Jewish community of Worms was wiped out, the Mahzor was given to the Jewish National and Hebrew University Library in Jerusalem, where it is now housed.

Prof. Bezalel Narkiss

DAVID BEN-GURION CENTENARY



Denomination: NIS 1.-

Size: 30.8 mm x 40 mm

Plate No: 22

Multicoloured

Designer: Z. Narkiss

Photolithography, E. Lewin-Epstein Ltd.

Sheet of 15 stamps, 5 tabs

Comb perforated 14
Issued: 19th October 1986

David Ben-Gurion was one of the outstanding leaders of the pre-State Jewish settlers in Eretz Israel. He was head of the Zionist Movement in the nineteen-thirties and, by virtue of his strong-willed character, was able to demand and later proclaim the establishment of the State of Israel. He became Prime Minister and national commander-in-chief during the crucial years of the War of Independence and the struggle for revival and existence.

Born in Plonsk, Poland in 1886. He emigrated to Eretz Israel at the age of 20 as a young Zionist socialist, becoming involved in agricultural work and workers' concerns. He studied Law in order to prepare himself for national leadership. At about the age of 30 he was banished from Eretz Israel by the Turks and mobilized a battalion of Jewish fighters, in the USA, prepared to fight with the Allies towards conquest of Palestine. He returned to Eretz Israel as a member of one of the legions. Following his return he took part in the setting-up of the Workers' Organization, of which he was Secretary-General, and later became Chairman of the Labour Party. From 1935 until the establishment of the State, he served as Chairman of the Jewish Agency, dealt with matters concerning State policies and security and stood at the head of those in favour of an agreement regarding division of the country into two States, in the wake of which, he proclaimed the establishment of the State of Israel on the 5 Iyar 5708 (14 May 1948). Ben-Gurion's personality influenced the shaping of the image of the State of Israel. He paid particular attention to the gathering of Jews from the Diaspora and their absorption, the Israel Defence Forces, State education, democracy, external relations and security, out of a quest for peace. In 1953 he withdrew from the Government and lived for about two years at Sede Boqer in the Negev Desert. After a further withdrawal in 1963, he settled in Sede Boqer for good. In 1970 he finally resigned from the Knesset, retired from political life and dedicated himself to writing. He died at the age of 87 and was buried in Sede Boqer beside his wife Paula.

National Stamp Exhibition
"NETANYA 86"

Souvenir sheet, one stamp
Denomination NIS 2.-; Price NIS 3.-
Size: 130 mm x 80 mm
Multicoloured
Graphics: N. & M. Eshel
Photolithography, E. Lewin-Epstein Ltd.
Box perforated 14
Issued 19th October 1986

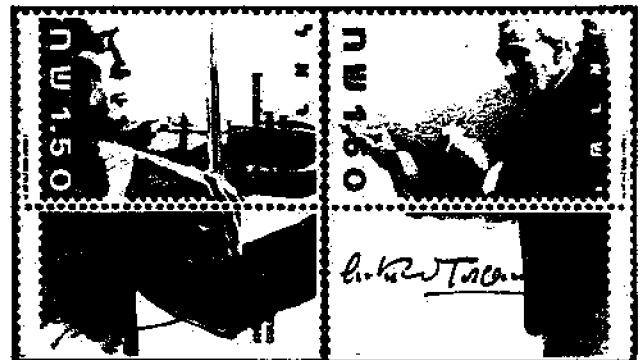


The map of the Holy Land by Gerard de Jode (Judaeus) of Antwerp, dating from 1578, is a fine example of 16th-century cartography. Like most contemporary maps it mainly shows places mentioned in the Holy Scriptures, but also some more recent names. A view of "modern" Jerusalem is incorporated. The map is directed towards the North-West, unlike the truly "oriented" mediaeval maps pointing to the East or modern maps directed towards the North. It was not yet based on survey measurements, a fact which is reflected by the indented coastline of the Mediterranean Sea and the shape of the Dead Sea. A note in the lower margin states that the map is based on the work of Tilemann Stelle.

Prof. Naftali Kadmon

BRONISLAW HUBERMAN
ARTURO TOSCANINI
50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE
ISRAEL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

Denominations: NIS 1.50 each
Size: 40 mm x 25.7 mm
Plate No: 21
Multicoloured
Designer: A. Vanooijen
Photolithography, E. Lewin-Epstein Ltd.
Sheet of 12 stamps se-tenant; 4 tabs
Comb perforated 14x 13
Issued 18th December 1986



The Israel Philharmonic Orchestra was founded 50 years ago, in 1936, by the famous violinist Bronislaw Huberman. He foresaw the perils of Nazi persecution of the Jews of Europe and in the early thirties, took his first steps towards establishing a symphony orchestra of international level in Eretz Israel; this was an idea that was rooted in his first concerts in this country in 1929, when a makeshift orchestra was hastily organised for him. Born in 1882 in Poland, he had been a "Wunderkind" who had moved Brahms to tears when he played for him and his teacher, Joachim. He had appeared in public to unanimous acclaim since he was 11, throughout Europe and the USA and his talent and renown continued to grow with maturity until he was in the same class as the world's greatest violinists. In the 1920s he became interested in the Pan-European movement and in Zionism, both of which he promoted throughout his life. His Zionism, combined with his foresight of the Nazi Holocaust, promoted him to seek out the finest musicians of Europe, all of them soloists or leading instrumentalists of the best European orchestras, and to persuade them to settle in the Jewish Homeland that

was later to become the State of Israel. On December 26th, 1936 he proudly presented the orchestra he had founded, in a makeshift auditorium at the Levant Fair Ground, the Palestine Orchestra (as it was then called) was conducted by none other than the immortal Arturo Toscanini. Huberman himself (out of modesty) preferred not to play with "his" orchestra at this time, he wanted the orchestra, not himself, to capture the limelight and the international headlines. In 1937 he was hurt in an air crash so his first appearance with the Orchestra was not until 1938.

Throughout those years he refused to play in Germany or Austria, and when World War II broke out, in 1939, he settled in the USA. After the war had ended in 1945 he moved to Switzerland where he died in 1947. His beloved orchestra, now renamed the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, has become one of the world's finest orchestras, counted among the "top ten" and renowned throughout the world as Israel's finest cultural ambassador. Huberman's dream was, indeed, gloriously fulfilled.

When the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra (then called the Palestine Orchestra) played its first public concert 50 years ago, on December 26th, 1936, it was conducted by none other than the immortal **Arturo Toscanini**, undisputedly the greatest conductor of all times. An Italian patriot and humanitarian, who had left his native Italy in protest against Fascism and who was boycotting Nazi Germany, he gladly acceded to the request of the Orchestra's founder, violinist Bronislaw Huberman to inaugurate the new Orchestra as a tribute to its musicianship and as a gesture towards humanitarianism.

Born in Italy in 1867, he began his career as a cellist, at the age of 19 he replaced an indisposed conductor — and his new meteoric career was launched. In 1898 he became the Music Director of "La Scala" and subsequently he was Music Director of the Metropolitan Opera and the New York Philharmonic and, at a later stage, of the NBC Symphony Orchestra which had been founded specially for him. He was highly revered too, at his countless guest engagements throughout the world with all the major orchestras at concerts, operas and festivals. The first non-German to conduct Wagner at Bayreuth (in 1930), he refused to appear in Nazi Germany and even in his beloved Italy during the Fascist regime there, though he always kept his Italian citizenship. Few conductors have ever played so important a role in the history of music or exerted such a profound influence on musicians, music critics and audiences throughout the world. His anti-fascist and anti-Nazi feelings combined with his humanitarianism to make him support the ideals of Zionism fervently. He not only cancelled other engagements so that he could inaugurate the Palestine Orchestra (now the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra) in 1936, he returned to it for further concerts in 1938 and only the exigencies of the War, his American contracts and his final retirement in 1954, prevented him from returning here in later years. He died in New York in 1957 at the ripe old age of 90, having been active until the last, editing tapes of his concerts. Were he alive today, he would surely be proud of the orchestra he inaugurated 50 years ago, and of its having become one of the world's top orchestras.

Gideon Tamir

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE



Denomination: 50 Agorot

Size: 30.8 mm x 30.8 mm

Plate No: 23

Multicoloured

Designers: N. & M. Eshel

Photolithography: E. Lewin-Epstein Ltd.

Sheet of 15 stamps, 5 tabs

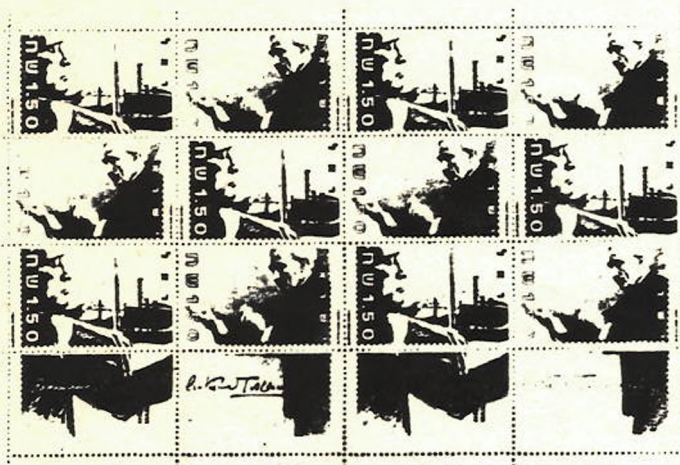
Comb perforated 14

Issued 18th December 1986

The Israel Meteorological Service was established in 1936 by the Palestine Mandate Authorities following the foundation, in 1935, of the airport at Lydda. Its founders and first members were mainly immigrants from Germany, headed by a well-known meteorologist, who had emigrated to Palestine as head of a small glider team at the 1935 Maccabiah. Until then, there were only a few Meteorological observation stations which reported to the Egyptian Meteorological Service and a number of stations in the new Jewish settlements which were organized by the Hebrew University.

The importance of a general Meteorological Service which would extend beyond the sole requirements of aviation was understood from the start and intensive coverage by Meteorological observation stations throughout the country was arranged. Prediction for aviation, agriculture, shipping purposes and for the general public were all taken care of whilst the accumulated climatological data were used for purposes of research, planning and advice in the fields of agriculture and water, settlement and construction, health and the environment.

In 1948, on the birth of the State of Israel, the Jewish staff of the Meteorological Service were taken over by the Ministry of Transport where it extended its activities greatly, consequently constantly developing its scientific and technological means so as to keep up with events and developments which were taking place in the advanced international community and even contributed, to the best of its ability in international training and technical assistance. To be able to make its various forecasts the Service has continuously, day and night throughout the year, to collect observations from a great part of the world by means of international telecommunications which include a point-to-point link between its computer at Bet-Dagan and a large one at one of the main international centres at Offenbach, Germany. The continuously flowing data are processed by the Meteorological Service computer which uses an advanced forecasting model that ensures that the weather prediction is based on an objective mathematical application of the atmospheric processes. The processed information is then stored at the national archives of the Meteorological Service. Among the auxiliary means used are satellite-cloud-images and reports from automatic stations.



The centre of the Meteorological Service is at its institute at Bet-Dagan which was built at the Meteorological Interchange. The building was specially built as part of an agreement between the Government of Israel and the UN Special fund for technical assistance.

NAZARETH

The Basilica of the Annunciation



Denomination: 70 Agorot

Size: 25.7 mm x 40 mm

Plate No: 24

Multicoloured

Designer: A. Berg

Photolithography

E. Lewin-Epstein

Sheet of 15 stamps

5 tabs

Comb perforated 14 x 13

Issued 18th December

1986

Nazareth, an old city in the heart of Lower Galilee, has many tourist attractions and many points of interest for pilgrims. Its name is not mentioned in the Old Testament but appears several times in the New Testament and in non-Christian sources from the third and fourth centuries. For hundreds of millions of Christians, Nazareth is the cradle of the origin of their faith as, according to the Christian religion, it was here that Mary was announced on the birth of her son and it was here that he spent his formative years.

The town has gone through many historical phases,

more than once it has been conquered, destroyed and rebuilt. During recent years Nazareth has developed and become the centre of Galilee where many tourists and pilgrims come to see the holy sites of Christianity and other religions such as the Grotto of the Annunciation and the Catholic Basilica of the Annunciation, Mary's Well, St. Joseph's Church, Greek Orthodox Churches and also smaller churches, monasteries, seminaries and mosques of which the most important are the White Mosque and the Mosque of Peace. Nazareth is also a good base for visitors to the holy and historical sites which are in the vicinity, like Zippori and Kfar-Kanna, Mount Tabor and sites around the Sea of Galilee.

The Basilica of the Annunciation — the Franciscan Basilica, which is shown on the stamp, is located in the centre of Nazareth and impresses one with its architectural beauty. Its rebuilding was initiated by the franciscan fathers of the custody of the Holy Land during the 1960 s, above the Grotto of the Annunciation and on the remains of old churches that had been built above the cave during different historical periods. Pope Paul VI visited the Church during his visit to Nazareth in 1964. The Church was planned by the Italian architect Giovanni Muzio and built by the "Solel Boneh" Company. The Basilica is made up of two parts — the lower part which includes the Annunciation Grotto and different old remains, and the upper part which is crowned with a dome which resembles an inverted rose, the roots of which reach up to 60 m. Inside the Church there is a large mosaic depicting the Madonna, the Mother of the Church, which can be seen above the main altar. The inside walls of the Church are adorned by several mosaics — gifts from different countries round the world.

ANTOINE SHAHEEN, NAZARETH

This stamp is issued along with other stamps brought out by the Israel Philatelic Services in honour of the non-Jewish population of Israel. Examples of other such stamps are — the al-Jazzar Mosque in Akko; the Tomb of Nabi Sabalan in Hurteish and the ISRAPIL 85 souvenir sheet of the Dome of the Rock, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and the Western Wall.

These stamps express the freedom of worship for all, which is a corner-stone of the Israel democracy.

B.A.P.I.P. POSTAL AUCTION

John Swinnerton, Auction Secretary for many years, has decided to retire from this very important post due to ill health. We should like to take this opportunity to thank him for the dedication and hard work he has invested to make the B.A.P.I.P. Auction such a success.

Mr Julius Fletcher has agreed to organise and be responsible for future Postal Auctions. Lots for the 1987 Postal Auction should be sent as soon as possible to the Auction Secretary Julius Fletcher, 96 Bulstrode Avenue, Hounslow, Middlesex, TW3 3AD. (01-570-1493)

Lots must be listed in an accompanying letter and should be:

- (1) Given a "Reserve" figure. (The Auction Secretary accepts no responsibility for pricing material). Minimum amount £2.
- (2) Enclosed separately in a protective covering so that a "lot number" may be affixed without damaging the contents.
- (3) Adequately described.

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